

Hafa Adai!

House unanimously OKs bill to amend BOE quorum rule. **PAGE 2**
Social Security and OIG hold annual 'Slam the Scam Day'. **PAGE 6**

\$1

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'Touchback' rule worries employers

MARK RABAGO

Workers of Hong Ye Construction work on the sewerline along Beach Road in front of Joeten Center Building 1 in Susupe.

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Editor's Note: This is part of a series of special reports that Saipan Tribune will be featuring every Friday this month, focusing on the "touchback" provision. The series will examine the rule's impact on employers, affected workers, and the CNMI economy.

Part I

Manpower agency EFG Pacific Holdings LLC stands to lose half of the workers it supplies to many businesses in the CNMI by the start of the next fiscal year when the touchback rule

See **TOUCHBACK** on Page 4

IF THE GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO HONOR OUR CONTRACT 'We cannot operate in limbo'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

forms MSA employees that it cannot continue its partnership with MSA indefinitely under these circumstances.

This week, Southern Airways chair and CEO Stan Little wrote MSA employees

See **LIMBO** on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Days until
'touchback rule'
takes effect on
Sept. 30, 2023:

204

The recent termination of Marianas Southern Airways' sole-source contract with the CNMI government may result in a loss of jobs as its partner airline, Southern Airways, in-

Staffler wants to streamline job openings in NMI

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After her recent confirmation hearing at the Senate as CNMI Labor secretary, Leila Staffler says one of her top priorities with the CNMI Department of Labor is to streamline all job vacancy announce-

See **STAFFLER** on Page 4

Staffler



Swift action seen in budget's revision

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang announce the submission of their request to the Legislature to revise the CNMI 2023 budget during a press briefing in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill Wednesday afternoon. Also in the photo are members of the Senate and House of Representatives majority.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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REPORTER

Personally, Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) does not anticipate much debate on Gov. Arnold I. Palacios' request to revise the CNMI Fiscal Year 2023 budget. House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) assured that the House stands ready to work on the process.

Speaking at a news briefing
See **SWIFT** on Page 4



DeLeon Guerrero

INSIDE



BUSINESS

A new boutique amusement arcade has opened in Chalan Kanoa called Happy Play.

PAGE 13



ASIA

Xi Jinping has called for "more quickly elevating the armed forces to world-class standards."

PAGE 15



SCIENCE & TECH

Of those who sought refuge from the Ice Age, only those who went to Spain and Portugal survived.

PAGE 18



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Local

House unanimously OKs bill to amend BOE quorum rule

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives unanimously passed yesterday on first and final reading a bill that will reduce the Board of Education's quorum requirements from four to

three members.

With all 19 House members voting "yes," House Bill 23-20 now goes to the Senate for action. Reps. Manny Gregory T. Castro (Ind-Saipan) and John Paul Sablan (Ind-Saipan) introduced the legislation during a House session yesterday.

Several other members co-sponsored the bill.

Before the voting, Castro, who chairs the House Committee on Education, said there is nothing political in this bill. "This bill is purely to provide equity," he added.

Castro compares the current

state of affairs at the Public School System to "a big ship with a small rudder."

"This bill will be going to allow us to give that rudder some flexibility to steer wherever it needs to be. Given the financial issues, given all the things that need to happen expeditiously, we are just making it equitable across the

board," Castro said.

The BOE serves as the rule-making authority that oversees and implements policies that govern PSS. It failed to meet the quorum requirement during meetings last Feb. 1, 14, and 24.

Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan) agreed that the bill is about equity and that

they do believe in the model of PSS, which is "Students First." "And because of that, the action of this bill supports 'Students First' and everything else I believe is secondary. But right now, today, what we are doing is to ensure that there is equity," she said.

The BOE consists of
See HOUSE on Page 4

CNMITax.com helps you with online personal income tax return preparation in the CNMI

Hanmi Professional Services announced yesterday the launch of CNMITax.com, a new website that enables CNMI residents to prepare their personal income tax returns (1040CM) online for the first time. This marks a significant milestone in the

region's tax preparation process, as it provides a convenient and efficient way for taxpayers to prepare their taxes from their own home or office.

CNMITax.com is specifically designed for people who have only W-2CM sal-

ary/wage income from the CNMI and zero to four qualified U.S. dependents. Users can get a free estimation of their expected tax refund or tax due amount, before deciding if they want to pay for the tax return and receive it as a PDF file for download

and printing. The maximum refund with four qualified U.S. dependents is \$12,935.

"We are thrilled to offer this innovative solution to CNMI residents. By launching CNMITax.com, we hope to simplify the tax preparation process and make it more

accessible to taxpayers. This website will save taxpayers a significant amount of time, effort, and cost, and we believe it will be a great convenience for taxpayers in the CNMI," said the company in a news release yesterday.

The service costs \$8, \$15 or \$35, depending on the taxpayer's needs.

After preparing their tax return on CNMITax.com, users should download and print the tax return, sign on Page 6, make one copy, and file it at the CNMI Division of Revenue & Taxation.

For more information about cnmitax.com, visit the website or send an email to support@cnmitax.com. (PR)



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS**SSHS PTSA meeting on March 22**

The Saipan Southern High School PTSA will have its quarterly meeting on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm, at the SSHS cafeteria. For more information, contact (670) 237-3710 or email saipansouthernhs@gmail.com. (PR)

Water service interruption in San Vicente

There will be a scheduled water service interruption today, March 10, 2023, in San Vicente.

■ **Time:** 12:30pm to 4:30pm

■ **Area affected:** South San Vicente, Upper Dandan Homestead, Naftan and Obyan

■ **Purpose:** To isolate a mainline leak located on Kattan Hudda in South San Vicente area

■ **Road way(s) affected:** CUC operators will be work-

ing on the shoulder of the east-bound lane on Kattan Hudda Road. For the safety of our staff, we advised motorists to use caution and to slow down while in the area. (PR)

Waterline repair in As Perdido extended to today

Due to extent of repairs necessary for a mainline leak on As Perdido Road near the Texas Road intersection, the public advisory for areas of As Gonno, Koblerville, As Perdido, Chalan Piao, San Antonio, Chalan Kanoa, and Susupe will be extended until 8am today, March 10, 2023.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has contracted the repair work in order to expedite the restoration of water services. Customers in the affected areas— As Gonno, Koblerville, As Perdido, Chalan Piao, San Antonio, Chalan Kanoa and Susupe—are asked to conserve water during this interruption

and to avoid the construction zone on As Perdido Road.

For the safety of the men and women on the job site, motorists are advised to take alternative routes as an east-bound lane on As Perdido Road will be closed for the duration of the repair. (PR)

CBMA soliciting assistance for Project: CNMI Restore

The Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs is notifying civil engineers, contractors, labor unions, and the public that it has solicited no-cost assistance from the U.S. Department of Defense's Innovative

Readiness Training Program.

The assistance will include a deliberate civil survey assessment of existing social, economic, governmental, legal, environmental, health-care, educational, or infrastructure systems within the community for perceived vulnerabilities and identify areas for future improvements for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota during the timeframe of spring/summer of fiscal year 2023.

Anyone who has any questions or wishes to express any opposition to military assistance for this project may contact Daniel Aquino, special assistant to the governor for military af-

fairs, at 670-788-0935, or by email at daniel.aquino@gov.mp; or by mail at Caller Box 10007; Saipan, MP 96950. (PR)

Tsunami evacuation planning needs your input

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management and Pacific Coastal Research and Planning is holding town hall meetings across Saipan and are inviting the community to lend their input. The town hall meetings will take place every Tuesdays and Thursdays from March 7 until March 16.

The session for residents of Susupe and the areas of Cha-

lan Kanoa close to Susupe will be at Marianas High School on Tuesday, March 14, and for those in San Antonio and Chalan Kanoa, the last session will be held on Thursday, March 16, at the Hopwood Jr. High School. All sessions will be from 5pm until 7pm.

To see the current and monthly updated tsunami evacuation zones for each island in the NMI go to <https://arcg.is/HOP48>.

For more information, email Mario Kaipat at Mario.Kaipat@cnmihsem.gov.mp or contact Robbie Greene at Robbie.Greene@PacificCRP.org. (Chrystal Marino)




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SWIFT

From Page 1

called by Palacios in the governor's conference room Wednesday afternoon, both DeLeon Guerrero and Villagomez expressed belief that the governor's request will be acted on expeditiously.

Palacios transmitted Wednesday morning to the Legislature his request to revise the fiscal year 2023 CNMI budget to ensure the continuity of essential government functions,

programs, and services. The revision estimates total net gross revenue and resources at \$116.19 million.

DeLeon Guerrero, who was present in the news briefing, said the fiscal year 2023 budget submission, which is a modified budget, has to be reviewed by the Legislature.

She noted that the last passage of the fiscal year 2023 budget came in at a net revenue of \$109.78 million. Today, with the increase of 11% in local revenue collections, or about \$11.8 million, based on the collections posted in the first two quarters

of the current fiscal year, the additional funding that has been collected by Revenue and Tax shows that there has to be some modifications.

"However, we are not yet at that level of recovery," DeLeon Guerrero said.

She said that, with Palacios' statement that the American Rescue Plan Act money has already been depleted, and that Federal Emergency Management Agency's Community Disaster Loan Funds money is no longer there to guarantee the 25% portion of retiree pensions and the Medicaid match, now

they have to tap the local revenues that they are collecting.

DeLeon Guerrero said the Legislature still has to sit down and take a look at the numbers and come to an agreement with the administration, so they can push the passage of the budget modifications of fiscal year 2023.

Villagomez, who was also present at the news briefing, said House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) and two other representatives who are members of the House fiscal team are meeting regularly with the governor's fiscal team and with the Senate's fiscal team to get updates on the CNMI's fiscal condition.

That should smoothen the process a little bit to get the revised budget

passed, Villagomez said.

He said they stand ready and will work closely with the governor's fiscal team.

At the House's session yesterday morning, Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) said that, as a member of the working group with the administration on the financials, they will continue addressing the 2024 fiscal year budget in the next couple of weeks.

With the 2023 budget revision, Attao said they will be working with Yumul and their fiscal analyst so they can get that product out for the House members to review.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

TOUCHBACK

From Page 1

comes into effect.

EFG Pacific Holdings LLC owner Eden Ordas said that Oct. 1, 2023, will be a "challenging time" for CNMI businesses that employ CNMI-Only Transitional Workers who have to exit the islands because of U.S. Citizenship in Immigration Services' touchback requirement.

Under the rule, foreign workers with "CW" work visas must leave the CNMI for at least 30 days after two renewals of their CW-1 visa classification.

"The touchback rule is a very big challenge for me as a manpower agency. I believe that 50% of my total manpower agency will be affected," said Ordas, who employs around 200 workers.

EFG Pacific Holdings is a lynchpin of many businesses in the CNMI that uses CW workers; the manpower agency supplies cooks, waitstaff, bartenders, bakers, general repair and maintenance staff, among others to various industries in the CNMI.

"Companies hiring CWs are in a bind because they can't really play the waiting game. In the case of the touchback rule, you can't petition affected CWs until they've exited the CNMI for 30 days," said Ordas.

And don't expect the touchback CW worker to be back on the islands soon.

"In our own experience, there are some instances where CW permits were approved relatively quickly, but there are some instances where almost a year or even more than a year has passed and the CW permits haven't been approved yet," she added.

Aside from the challenges the touchback rule will have on the local economy, she said the requirement will also exact irreparable harm to affected CW workers themselves.

"They're very much worried because they're not ready to go home because they don't have much savings. At the same time, what will they do back in their home countries? There's just a lot of uncertainties," said Ordas.

P&A Corp. general manager Doyi Kim also has had sleepless nights worrying about the touchback rule since more than 20 of her company's staff will be affected by the requirement. She's hopeful that Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) will be successful in his plans to pass a bill delaying its implementation by two to three years.

"There might be some reasons. But I think we can do something about it [delay on touchback rule]. ...We still need CW workers and we can probably make some better rules. ...I agree that we need to control outside workers but [we're not ready for the touchback rule]. ...It's not really easy to say because I don't have any alternatives," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

If the requirement pushes through this year, P&A Corp. will be losing IT specialists, maintenance staff, and most of their housekeeping staff, Kim said.

To steel themselves for the eventuality of the touchback rule, she said her company has been hiring new employees lately.

"We've been preparing since two years ago. We hired some new CWs and we're trying to search from the local worker pool. I am interviewing as much as possible but I am very worried because most of the employees [that will have to leave] are the most important ones for the company," said Kim, who admits she prefers hiring direct employees rather than relying on manpower agencies.

Currently, P&A Corp. is looking for electrical engineers and construction engineers. It operates CK Smokehouse, Marianas Meat Harvesting Co., International Roller Skates, among other businesses on Saipan.

Lindsey Ahn, the corporate social responsibility manager for E-Land Group, said the company that owns Kensington Hotel Saipan, Coral Ocean Resort Saipan, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan shares local businesses' collective angst with the upcoming implementation of the touchback rule.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

STAFFLER

From Page 1

ments in order to make finding jobs easier for CNMI residents.

Following the confirmation hearing, Staffler stated that one of her first acts in office is to work on streamlining all job vacancy announcements through the DOL website for CNMI residents to conveniently look for job openings.

"The No. 1 thing I really want to move Labor into is updating our websites and access points for the people of the community, especially right now with so many people getting laid off from work, not just in the government but also the private sector. People look to Labor for answers and where they can look for their next opportunity. One of the challenges I see is that, although Labor does have JVA placement for jobs that are usually being advertised for CW renewals, we are not a repository for all JVAs in the CNMI. So I want to do better in connecting people to other place where job vacancy announce-

ments are posted. Right now, there are multiple sites within our government, as an example, that have lots of JVAs open. There are also private sector areas where there are JVAs posted, so getting it all centralized so there are links from our Department of Labor website would be a good place to start," she said.

Another issue Staffler aims to tackle is the issue of the impending phase-out of all CNMI-Only transitional workers come 2029.

"Another area of high concern for our community is the CW-1 end date. I'm making sure I'm in communication with our Department of Labor counterparts in the federal side so that they can get a good picture and understanding. Part of that is collecting the right type of data. At this point, we don't have all the kinds of data that we need to be able to make our case with the U.S. Department of Labor so that they can get the picture," she said.

"That's something I've been working on. I've already begun collaborating with [Department of] Commerce, I will start talking with [Division of]

Tax and Revenue. We really do need to align our systems more so we can share information that will help all of us in applying for grants or for making our cases with federal counterparts," Staffler added.

Ultimately, Staffler said, she'll do her best for the betterment of the CNMI Department of Labor.

"I pledge to do the best that I can do to help all of our islands, to ensure that they are all able to receive the opportunities that are out there. I will leverage my resources and use technology as much as possible to make sure that our scope and our width is as broad as possible to help as many people in the CNMI as possible. Increasing the use of technology across the department for monitoring practices and ensuring that we're cross-referencing and communicating is something else that I'm working on now. There is currently no social media platform for the Department of Labor; that's something I'm working toward so people have better access to announcements, opportunities, and different things that come up," she said.

LIMBO

From Page 1

to update them about the current situation between the airline and the government and the possible outcome if the CNMI government ultimately chooses not to honor its contract with MSA or come to some kind of resolution.

According to Little, although MSA continues to provide interisland air service right now, if the CNMI government is adamant about its decision to terminate its contract with the airline, MSA cannot continue to operate under these conditions indefinitely.

"Right now, we continue to fly, and we continue to serve the people of the CNMI and Guam. They are our customers and they are our primary concern on a daily basis. We cannot, however, operate indefinitely with the government refusing to honor its contract," said Little.

MSA has confirmed the authenticity of the letter but states it cannot speak for Southern Airways.

"Southern is a partner of MSA and a company separate from MSA. I cannot speak on behalf of Southern," said MSA president Keith Stewart.

Ultimately, any business decision to continue the CNMI airline will be made by MSA, but it was created in partnership with the U.S.-based Southern Airways and, because of the uncertainty of the situation, Southern Airways says it may be forced to suspend services in the Marianas at some point.

In his letter to employees, Little said: "While I cannot promise you how this will end, I can promise you this: You are Southern Airways team members, and we have always taken care of our own. We did not terminate, lay-off, furlough, or early-retire any of our team members even during the darkest days of COVID. If the governor continues refusing to engage and we are forced to suspend service at some point, every one of

you will receive a job offer of some kind, somewhere. For those of you who don't wish to transfer or work remotely, we will offer you a severance package that allows you time to get back on your feet. For those of you who transferred to the CNMI specifically to work for us, we will help you get back to where you came from or to another Southern station," said Little.

"I hope we don't have to face that eventuality. I hope the governor will pick up the phone. I hope the Commonwealth will honor its obligations. But at this point, all I can do is hope," Little added.

Little shared in his letter that Southern Airways was just as blindsided as everyone else involved with the recent contract termination and it has tried to reach out to the CNMI administration to work something out. Unfortunately, Little said, he has yet to get a response.

"With all the opportunities that Southern Airways has for flying here on the [North American] continent, the last thing we wanted or needed was to be embroiled in political controversy in the far Pacific. Nevertheless, the new administration has chosen to politicize our presence there, seemingly in an attempt to vilify their election opponents. I have sent the governor a lengthy letter, explaining our position and our desire to find a path forward. As of yet, we have received no reply. In fact, we began the process of trying to speak to the new administration in early January just after the inauguration, but they would not even return our phone calls or agree to a meeting," he said.

"Us in leadership were just as blindsided as you probably were by the new governor's actions toward us," Little added.

Many Saipan-based employees, who have requested not to be identified, have expressed an unwillingness to be uprooted from the islands, to be assigned to other Southern Airways posts.

bers to constitute a quorum.

Castro and Sablan stated in the bill that establishing a quorum for the BOE is problematic. They noted that most of the boards in the CNMI require a simple majority of members to conduct business. They said this simple majority is large enough to ensure legitimacy, while also being small enough to secure flexibility.

HOUSE

From Page 2

five voting members, but the presence of four voting members shall constitute the necessary quorum to conduct meetings. Yesterday's bill will amend the Commonwealth Code to allow three voting mem-



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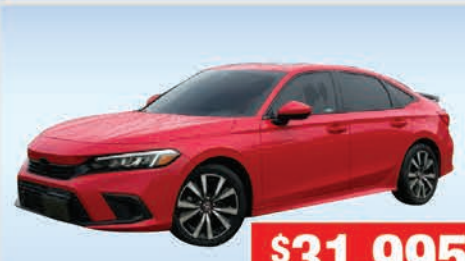
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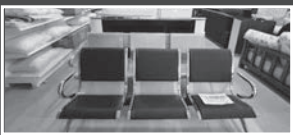
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Social Security and OIG hold annual 'Slam the Scam Day'

The Social Security Administration and its Office of the Inspector General continue to raise public awareness about Social Security impostor scams during the fourth annual "Slam the Scam" Day yesterday, March 9.

Social Security scams—where fraudsters pressure victims into making cash or gift card payments to fix alleged Social Security number problems or to avoid arrest—are an ongoing government impostor fraud scheme. For several

years, Social Security impersonation scams have been one of the most common government impostor scams reported to the Federal Trade Commission. Social Security has made concerted efforts to address this issue, through extensive outreach and investigative initiatives. These efforts have made a significant impact, reducing money reported lost to Social Security scams by 30% from 2021 to 2022.

"I am proud of the work we have done to combat Social Security [impostor] scams and raise public awareness," said Kilolo Kijakazi, acting commissioner of Social Security. "We will continue to use every tool at our disposal to protect the public and their critical benefits. We urge Americans to remain vigi-

lant, do not give out personal information or money, and report any scam attempts."

Scammers use sophisticated tactics to trick potential victims into disclosing personal and financial information. Typically, they use these P's—Pretend, Prize or Problem, Pressure, and Payment. For example, scammers pretend they are from Social Security in phone calls or emails and claim there is a problem with the person's Social Security number. The scammer's caller ID may be spoofed to look like a legitimate government number. Scammers may also send fake documents to pressure people into complying with demands for information or money. Other common tactics include citing "badge numbers" and using fraudulent

Social Security letterhead to target individuals for payment or personal information.

Social Security will never tell you that your Social Security number is suspended; contact you to demand an immediate payment; threaten you with arrest; ask for your credit or debit card numbers over the phone; request gift cards or cash; or promise a Social Security benefit approval or increase in exchange for information or money.

Social Security employees do contact the public by telephone for business purposes. Ordinarily, the agency calls people who have recently applied for a Social Security benefit, are already receiving payments and require an update to their record, or have requested a phone call from the agency. If there is a problem with a person's Social Security number or record,

Social Security will typically mail a letter.

"Working with our law enforcement and private sector partners to inform consumers about scammers and their deceptive practices remains a priority for my office. We will continue promoting National Slam the Scam Day to help protect consumers from these predators. Slamming the scam begins with consumers quickly taking a step to hang up the phone, or delete suspicious texts and emails, without responding to the scammers," said Gail S. Ennis, Inspector General for the Social Security Administration. "That remains the easiest and most effective method to avoid falling prey to these vicious scams."

To report a scam attempt, go to oig.ssa.gov. For more information, visit www.ssa.gov/scam and www.ssa.gov/fraud. (SSA)

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Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office

Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 • Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9700/9800 • Facsimile: (670) 236-9702 Website: www.NMJudiciary.gov

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

LAW CLERK
for
ASSOCIATE JUDGE TERESA K. KIM-TENORIO
Announcement # JVA23-012

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the general supervision of Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio in the Superior Court on Saipan which involves the performance of professional legal research and other related administrative work in the preparation of memoranda, opinions, or orders. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Reviews, studies, searches, and annotates laws, court decisions, documents, opinions, briefs and related legal authorities;
- Researches the law for oral motions made during trials;
- Prepares briefs, legal memoranda, orders and judgments for review by the Judge, including appropriate suggestions or recommendations to the Judge;
- Prepares jury instructions;
- Compiles references on laws and decisions necessary for legal determinations;
- Confers with the Judge concerning legal questions, construction of documents and granting of orders;
- Attends court proceedings to hear oral arguments and record necessary case information;
- Participates in various Judiciary Committees, as directed by the Judge;
- Assists with any specialty courts the Judge may be designated to (Associate Judge Kim-Tenorio is currently designated to the Family Court and the Drug Court); and
- Completes other duties assigned by the Judge.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: The Law Clerk must have a law degree from an ABA- approved law school and be able to work both independently as well as with others. Strong legal research and writing skills are essential. Prior experience at a law firm, a judiciary, or with treatment courts is advantageous.

Keen legal analysis skills; strong writing skills with an excellent grasp of grammar and punctuation; proficient in operating a personal computer and working with MS Word and Adobe Acrobat; and impeccable organizational skills. Must have the ability to maintain and control sensitive and confidential information, maintain records professionally, and uphold office policies.

Candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Must have a valid drivers' license and operate a court vehicle. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment. "Illegal drug" means a substance whose use or possession is controlled by federal law but that is not being used or possessed under the supervision of a licensed health care professional. (Controlled substances are listed in Schedules I-V of 21 C.F.R. Part 1308.)

Candidates should be available to start on June 5, 2023, or, if the candidate is taking the Summer Bar Examination in any jurisdiction, on July 31, 2023.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge or his designee. The salary will be \$60,000 per annum.

INTERESTED PERSONS Application forms are available at the Human Resources Office at the Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice in Susupe, Saipan, or at the Superior Court offices on Kotten Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota during normal business hours except on weekends and holidays. Completed applications; cover letter; resume; two legal writing samples (non-collaborative); one or two Letter(s) of Recommendation; and three references shall be submitted to:

NMI Judiciary
Human Resources
Guma' Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 236-9818
Cell. (670) 783-8592
hr.judiciary@nmijudiciary.gov

Candidates should cc a copy of the application and enclosed documents to the chambers of Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio: sabrina.delacruz@nmijudiciary.gov; gregory.cenac@nmijudiciary.gov

This job announcement will remain open until filled and can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.nmijudiciary.gov>

The Judiciary reserves the right to rescind or cancel this JVA at any time without notice.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

Saipan junk car removal expanded



Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho is notifying the public that his office has expanded its efforts in removing junk vehicles around the island.

Vehicles sitting idle that have been identified and tagged by the CNMI Zoning Office will be transported to the Recycling Center by the Saipan Mayor's Office. The routine pickup schedules has been extended to twice a week—on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Additionally, Camacho en-

courages the public to contact his office for any requests to remove junk vehicles in ones residential property. Documentation proving ownership of vehicle is required for requests to be considered. Contact the Saipan Mayor's office at (670) 234-6208 for more information. The Office is located on the first floor of the CTC building on Teer Dr., Oleai, behind the Ada Gymnasium Track and Field. Office hours are Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm. (PR)

THE GOAL MUST BE
ZERO
ACCIDENTS

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Open from 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday | 8:00am – 2:00pm Saturday

USCG conducts search and rescue exercise with partners in Chuuk



LT.CMDR. CHRISTINE IGISOMAR

Members of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam conduct a search and rescue exercise in Weno, Chuuk, the Federated States of Micronesia, from Feb. 21, 2023. In attendance were 27 members from various agencies, including the Chuuk Department of Public Safety in Weno and Udot, the Chuuk Disaster Emergency Operations Center, the Chuuk Fire Division, and the Weno Municipal Police.

WENO, CHUUK, Federated States of Micronesia—Members of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam conducted a search and rescue exercise in Weno, Chuuk in the Federated States of Micronesia from Feb. 20 to 23, 2023.

In attendance were 27 members from various agencies, including the Chuuk Department of Public Safety in Weno and Udot, the Chuuk Disaster Emergency Operations Center, the Chuuk Fire Division, and the Weno Municipal Police.

“After COVID, the Forces Micronesia team was eager to continue the great relationship we have with Chuuk state search and rescue partners,” said Lt. Christine Igisomar, U.S. Coast Guard maritime adviser to the Compact of Free Association nations. “We are happy to be back in Chuuk state and admire our partners’ intimate knowledge of their waters. We learned as much from them as we hope they learned from us.”

The exercise began with a review of search patterns and simulated cases within the Chuuk lagoon. The following day, attendees participated in on-water search pattern training and drills. U.S. Coast Guard members received local knowledge from attendees, which will aid in future search planning, especially for overdue cases in Chuuk. The Coast Guard team also visited the Emergency Operations Center to understand better the capabilities and unique challenges associated with conducted search and rescue in Chuuk.

U.S. Coast Guard members also took part in an office call with Chuuk Gov. Alexander Naruhn. During the meetings, U.S. Coast Guard members expressed gratitude for the hospitality from and partner-

ship with local maritime law enforcement teams. With continued training opportunities, the Service looks to enjoy a long-lasting partnership with Chuuk state and its search and rescue professionals.

“Continuing to build the capacity of our FSM partners, especially in search and rescue, remains a high priority,” said Capt. Nick Simmons, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam. “We respect the deep connection of the FSM people with the ocean, and we hope that in the off chance something goes wrong at sea, our partners are equipped with the tools to effectively bring someone home. The U.S. Coast Guard team’s partnership with Chuuk state is valuable

to that continued effort.”

U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam comprises nearly 300 personnel throughout the response, prevention, administrative, and logistics departments supporting the Joint Rescue Sub-Center, three fast response cutters, a small boat station, and a marine safety detachment in Saipan. The unit provides a significant portion of the U.S. Coast Guard’s enduring regional presence serving the people of the Pacific by conducting our six major operational mission programs: maritime law enforcement, maritime response, maritime prevention, marine transportation system management, maritime security operations, and defense operations. (USCG)



U.S. COAST GUARD FORCES MICRONESIA

Members of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam in Chuuk for a search and rescue exercise, conduct an office call with the Governor of Chuuk, Alexander Naruhn, in Weno, Chuuk, the Federated States of Micronesia, on Feb. 22, 2023.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA) CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com



NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit bid proposals and their qualifications for the **PORT OF SAIPAN BERTH 103 REPAIRS, Project No. CPA-SS-001-17**, for the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: “**PORT OF SAIPAN BERTH 103 REPAIRS, CPA-SS-001-17**” and submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. (CHST), THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company’s attendees to ensure social distancing.

The Project, in general, consists of Berth 103 Cavity Repairs including all associated work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans, specifications and the bid schedule, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS (\$200.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable unless this notice to bidders is cancelled. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier’s check or U.S. postal money order, made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bidders should notify CPA’s point of contact mentioned below immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD and are to verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at CPA’s Capt. George Fleming Memorial Building Conference Room at the Port of Saipan, located in Lower Base on the island of Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), at **10:00 A.M. (CHST), FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2023**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Attendance is not mandatory. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. Bidders are requested to minimize their company’s attendees to ensure social distancing.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director’s Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date; with the exception of extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who purchased a DVD and attended the pre-bid conference.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY (420) calendar days**. Liquidated damages in the amount of **FIVE HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS PER CALENDAR DAY (\$500.00)** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are “responsive and responsible.” This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be “responsive or responsible”, their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or mis-enter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA’s best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier’s check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-26 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.


By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all local and Federal requirements under this procurement.


FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: February 8, 2023



PROCUREMENT SERVICES CNMI GOVERNMENT



INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB23-BECQ/RT-DLNR-42300051-CIF ROTA

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 03, 2023 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

PURCHASE OF ONE (1) AGRICULTURAL TRACTOR AND THREE (3) ATTACHMENTS: ONE (1) FRONT-END LOADER, ONE (1) DISKING HARROW, AND ONE (1) ROTARY MOWER FOR THE ROTA, DLNR

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT HORIGUCHI BLDG, GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
BECQ ADMINISTRATOR

/S/ GERALDINE T. CRUZ
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

New DOC chief wants to revive a juvenile detention unit

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of the first priorities of acting Department of Corrections commissioner Anthony Torres is the re-establishment of a juvenile detention unit.

Speaking during his confirmation hearing before the CNMI Senate on Wednesday, Torres told legislators that one of his first priorities is to revive the department's JDU.

All juvenile inmates are presently housed in the same facility as adult inmates and Torres said it can sometimes serve as a challenge when it

comes to maintaining order at the corrections facility.

"We currently have our juveniles in the adult facility since 2015 and it impedes the orderly running of our institution. I need that unit back and I need to get our juveniles into another separate facility," Torres stated.

The previous juvenile detention facility was located in Kagman and has been closed for over eight years now.

"We've been planning and hoping. I've reached out to the acting commissioner of the

Department of Public Safety at the time and the CNMI presiding judge to hopefully give us back a JDU and support a facility or support our plan in renovating [the previous] facility for a JDU unit," he said.

The acting DOC commissioner says he also hope the CNMI administration will support his vision for the department.

"Having that one unit back will do leaps and bounds. With the support of the CNMI administration and Legislature, we can make

this happen," he said.

Torres was nominated by the Palacios-Apatang administration for his extensive career in Corrections. Until his appointment is officially confirmed by the Senate, he is the DOC chief in an acting capacity.

Torres just returned to the islands after serving several years as a correctional officer for the U.S. Department of Justice's Federal Bureau of Prisons and has just started to dip his feet into the rules and protocols that govern the CNMI's correctional facility and will update the community on the issues within the department and his

solutions moving forward.

Torres, who was born on Saipan, began his law enforcement career in 1999 as

an Adult Correctional Officer for the Department of Public Safety at Halawa Prison in Honolulu, Hawaii.



Torres

Bill aims to address disparities in data collection for US territories

WASHINGTON, D.C.—House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) and the delegates of the five U.S. territories—Aumua Amata Radewagen (R-American Samoa), Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), Jim Moylan (R-Guam), Jennifer González Colón (R-Puerto Rico), and Stacey E. Plaskett (D-US-VI)—introduced Wednesday the bipartisan Territories Statistics Collection Equity Act to address disparities in available data and data collection methods relating to the U.S. territories. The bill was first introduced in the previous Congress.

The Territories Statistics Collection Equity Act would address data disparities for the U.S. territories by directing the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy to develop and implement a plan to collect and publish statistics regarding the U.S. territories in the same manner as states. The ICSP advises the Office of Management and Budget in setting statistical policy and facilitates coordination across numerous federal statistical systems.

"Our policy decisions are only as good as the data that inform them," said Grijalva. "As long as our data collection for U.S. territories is incomplete and out-of-date, residents will continue to be denied the equitable access to resources they deserve. I'm grateful to stand alongside all five territorial delegates on this bill and urge my House colleagues on both sides of the aisle to move this legislation forward quickly."

Background

Complete and accurate population, economic, labor force, and agricultural data for the U.S. territories is severely lacking, leading to underfunding and underrepresentation of the territories in certain federal programs. A December 2022 brief from the Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality and Equally American highlighted how insufficient data about the U.S. territories prevents policymakers from making informed decisions for residents on issues like education, health care, and emergency preparedness. With residents of U.S. territories being predominantly people of color, failing to correct these data

issues deepens existing racial justice and equity issues.

Inconsistent data collection methods for U.S. territories across federal agencies are partly to blame for incomplete data. In addition, the Government Accountability Office recently found that major crises, like hurricanes and the COVID-19 pandemic, have created data collection issues for the territories. In April 2022, Grijalva requested that GAO conduct a more comprehensive review of data collection gaps for U.S. territories and how those gaps have affected federal funding.

Statements of support

Equally American, a non-partisan organization that advocates for equal rights and representation for the 3.5 million people living in U.S. territories, stated:

"When the federal government fails to treat residents of U.S. territories the same as residents of other U.S. jurisdictions in federal data collection, it sends the message that they do not count—both literally and figuratively. Whether you live in a state, territory, or the District of Columbia should not impact how you and your community are counted in the U.S. Census and other federal statistics."

Climate Strong Islands Network, a locally led network of U.S. Island entities that work to expand resources, support policy reform, improve infrastructure, and promote climate change mitigation and adaptation in each of the U.S. Island regions, stated:

"The Climate Strong Islands Network applauds [Grijalva] and the delegates of the five U.S. territories for introducing this important bipartisan bill. Like U.S. states, the territories need consistent and timely data across federal agencies to make sure our communities don't get left behind. Equitable data collection for U.S. territories will increase access to vital federal programs and support key policy decisions. The Territories Statistics Collection Equity Act will address the existing inadequacies of the current data collection processes and account for the unique qualities and needs of the U.S. territories. CSIN looks forward to working with...Grijalva and the delegates to pass this critical legislation." (PR)



United States Air Force Seeks Public Input for Cultural Resources Interpretive Plan



The U.S. Air Force (Air Force) is seeking public input regarding the preparation of a Cultural Resources Interpretive Plan for historic properties on Tinian. The Interpretive Plan is one of the Air Force's commitments in the Amendment to the Programmatic Agreement between the Air Force, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Historic Preservation Office, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to resolve adverse effects on cultural resources that could result from the Divert Activities and Exercises (Divert) and the Tinian Divert Infrastructure Improvements (Pipeline) projects. The purpose of the Interpretive Plan is to provide the Air Force with a strategy to prepare educational and historical interpretation materials of historic properties in the Divert and Pipeline project areas for the public. The plan and interpretive materials would be developed by the U.S. Air Force, in coordination with the CNMI, with input from the public. These project areas include West Field (at the Tinian Airport), the Tinian Seaport, and areas between them.

In late 2017, the Air Force sought initial public input on a plan to interpret the World War II historic features of West Field based on the Divert project. Comments received from this solicitation expressed an interest in interpretive products for West Field that included other time periods and resources. The scope of the Interpretive Plan was expanded in the Amendment to the Programmatic Agreement to include cultural resources in both project areas and from all represented time periods. The Air Force is seeking public input in the development of this Plan.

The Interpretive Plan will discuss content and evaluate options for future educational interpretive products for cultural resources in the Divert and Pipeline project areas. Possible products include but are not limited to: signage at publicly accessible historic features, printed brochures, exhibits and/or displays, and electronic products. The Air Force respectfully requests public input on the format and content of interpretive products, including suggested answers to the following questions:

- Who should the interpretive products be for? Who should the intended audience(s) be?
- What are important historical topics and themes that should be addressed?
- Do you have any stories about the project areas or its historic resources?
- What format should interpretive products take?

The Air Force will consider the comments received during the preparation of the Interpretive Plan. Those who wish to provide input are encouraged to submit their comments by email to valerie.curtis.1@us.af.mil or by mail to:

Valerie Curtis
25 E St., Suite C-300
JBPHH, HI 96853-5427
ATTN: Air Force Interpretive Plan

To ensure the Air Force has sufficient time to consider public input in the interpretive planning process, please submit comments by Friday, April 14, 2023.

www.PACAFDivertMarianasEIS.com

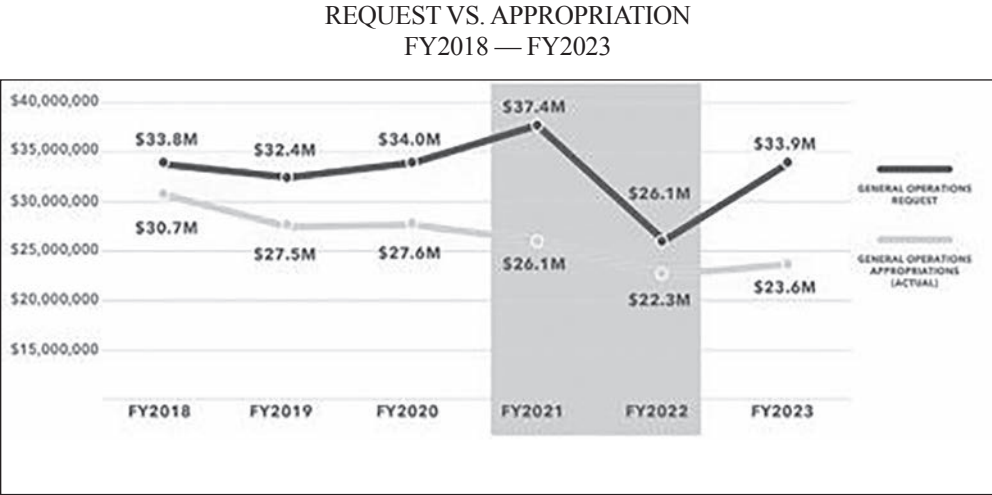
‘INVEST IN OUR STUDENTS’

UOG’s \$42M budget request hopes to reverse years of decreased funding

The University of Guam has submitted its fiscal year 2024 budget request of \$42 million for general operations, which includes student support services, personnel, facilities maintenance, and utilities.

“We are asking for what we need to stabilize the university,” said UOG president Thomas W. Krise. “With \$42 million, we can recover from past funding shortfalls in critical areas of our operations, demonstrate to our accrediting bodies that the government of Guam supports UOG and its mission, and prove to our students that their success is worth our government’s investment.”

Since 2018, UOG has experienced a continued decrease in GovGuam funding for its operations. In fiscal year 2018, the Legislature appropriated \$30.7 million. Five years later, in fiscal year 2023, the amount decreased to \$23.6 million—UOG’s lowest in over 20 years. Appropriations from the Legislature have decreased 23% between 2018 and 2023. Adjusted for inflation, the decrease is closer to 35%.



■ FY2023 represents UOG’s lowest appropriation in over 20 years

■ UOG survived FY20-21 due to the federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

No tuition increases

The university is not planning to increase tuition this fiscal year provided it receives the full appropriation of \$42 million. Funding UOG at the requested level means the university won’t have to place an additional financial burden on students who, along with their families, are already coping with the higher cost of food, hous-

ing, and other basic needs.

“The Student Government Association has been working with UOG administration on keeping tuition costs the same for next year,” said SGA president Kyona Rivera. “We have assurances from UOG, but it’s up to our senators to adequately fund our university.”

Addressing personnel concerns

A full appropriation in fiscal year 2024 will empower the university to address lingering personnel concerns, including an outdated faculty pay scale and the deferred hiring of critical employees.

The budget request includes funding that will help UOG update its faculty salary scale, which is over 10 years old. Recent pay increases for GDOE personnel have further put pressure on updating our faculty pay scale. For example, with both at Step 1 of their respective scales, an assistant professor earns \$13,000 less than a GDOE teacher VI—and both positions require terminal degrees. Funding for an updated faculty pay scale will help UOG address other issues with the recruitment and retention of faculty.

Over the last five years, deferred hiring due to bud-

get shortfalls has led to 77 critical vacancies in high areas of need, including faculty, student services, and facilities maintenance. The budget request includes the funding necessary to fill these positions, which will stabilize and improve UOG services and programs to benefit its students.

“We are missing key personnel, including faculty and support staff in many of our degree programs,” said Krise. “This means that our students often can’t get into the classes they need or the advisement they need, delaying degree completion and affecting our ability to retain students.”

The \$42-million request also includes funding for a staff pay increase, which will be needed should Bill 24-37 become public law.

Accreditation and “maintenance of effort”

For the first time in its history, the university has had an uninterrupted 16 years of accreditation from the WASC Senior College and University Commission. It received an eight-year term in 2009, which was renewed with commendations in 2016.

The current term will end next year. The university is undergoing its accreditation review process and may be at risk for a period lower than eight years due to its decreased funding over the last five years.

“There is a focus on how a state government supports public higher education,” said senior vice president and provost Anita Borja Enriquez. “The term is ‘maintenance of effort,’ and in the case of UOG, continual decreases in annual funding cause concern for accreditors.”

Enriquez, who also serves as a WASC liaison and a member of accreditation review committees for other institutions, added that though UOG has been able to launch new programs such as a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering, and has improved student support services in advisement and counseling, a lack of operational funding limits what these programs can do and how much they can grow.

‘Investing in UOG makes economic sense’

GovGuam funding support for UOG ripples through the entire island community. Ac-

cording to an economic impact study conducted by the university in 2020, for every \$1 it receives in general operations funding from GovGuam, UOG generates \$3 in additional tax revenue for the government. The study also noted that UOG contributes \$1 of every \$17 in Guam’s economy. The study is available online: <https://www.uog.edu/economic-impact>.

“Investing in UOG makes economic sense,” said Krise. “I can’t think of any other university in the country or region that matters more to its community, to an economy, to a professional workforce, to the preservation and transmission of culture and language, than the University of Guam.”

Krise said \$42 million next fiscal year is needed to stabilize operations and provide students with services and programs to help them succeed.

“Our faculty, staff, administrators, and our students have done everything we can to ensure our university survives—we need GovGuam to invest in our students,” added Krise. “Our students deserve better—they deserve our best.” (UOG)

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Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the •
Petition for the •
Adoption of: • FCD-AD
A.L.D.Y. -INITIALS • CIVIL ACTION
ONLY • NO. 22-0455
Minor Child(ren) •
By: • **NOTICE OF
HEARING**
Lorraine Taitano Bowie •
Paul William Camacho •
Bowie •
Petitioner(s) •

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on March 20, 2023 at 2:00p.m. in Courtroom 217A before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 21st day of December, 2022.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Name: Lu, Ming
Address: PMB 215 PO BOX 10000
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 287-7266/ 483-7231
Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the •
Matter of • FCD CN
the Petition • CIVIL ACTION
for the Change • NO. 22-0467
of Name of: •
Lu, Ming • **NOTICE OF
HEARING**
Petitioner •

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 17, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 21st day of December, 2022.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256
Attorney for Anita C. Camacho, Petitioner.


IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE •
ESTATE OF •
THOMAS JESUS •
CAMACHO •
Deceased: •
Date: March 16, 2023
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Judge: Hon. Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT OR OF HIS ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the Petitioner, Anita C. Camacho, has filed a Petition For Probate of Will and Letters Testamentary in the above-entitled Estate proceeding pursuant to Rule 15, Com. R. Prob.
A hearing on the petition will be conducted by the Court on **March 16, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.** in Courtroom 220A, Superior Court. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.
Pursuant to Rule 21, Com. R. Prob., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Decedent or his Estate that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the publication of this notice. A copy of the claim of any creditor should be sent to Attorney Mark Scoggins at the above indicated address.
Reference is hereby made to the petition for further particulars.
SO NOTICED this 24th day of February 2023.

/s/
HON. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge, CNMI Superior Court



NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION: INSTRUCTOR, HOSPITALITY/TOURISM (1 POSITION)

LOCATION: NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
AS TERLAJE CAMPUS
P.O. BOX 501250, SAIPAN, MP 96950

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Participates in Program Review and Assessment activities. this includes, but is not limited to, course level assessment for all courses taught by the position, lead role in program level assessment for the Hospitality & Tourism Management program, chairing a Hospitality & Tourism Management program advisory council, and supportive role in program level assessment for other business degree programs and overall institutional assessment; Teaches a total of 30 credit hours per academic year (Fall and Spring) in the areas of Travel and Tourism, Hospitality, Food and Beverage Management, Restaurant Operations, and Guest Relations and other related courses; Uses a variety of teaching methods designed to enhance student learning and the development of critical thinking skills; Provides high quality service to students and the community; Provides academic advising of the Hospitality & Tourism Management Program and other Business majors and assists students in registration; Prepare and revises curriculum, course guides, and syllabi for courses taught; Reviews textbooks and other curricular materials for adoption, and recommended books to NMC Library to support courses; Develops, administers, evaluates, and scores tests and exams for courses taught; Assists students in supplementing classroom learning through practical internship and work-study programs; Evaluates students learning, records and submits course grades, and maintains records of student performance; Maintains office hours for consultation with students; Exhibits sensitivity of students' personal, cultural, and gender differences in a non-threatening learning environment; Participates in faculty meetings, workshops, conferences, and available professional development activities; Participates in departmental and/or institutional committee work and other college-wide activities; Participates in community activities or College representation, student recruitment, and other purposes of institutional advancement, as assigned; Assists the Department Chair, as requested, by conducting classroom observations of department faculty, both full-time and adjunct, and submitting written reports of these observations to Department Chair for faculty evaluation purposes reviews the qualifications of adjunct faculty to teach courses within the employees' areas of expertise, and makes recommendations to the Department Chair for certification of hiring; Assists the department in developing, revising, and implementing goals and objectives related to areas of expertise. Works cooperatively with other departments in implement NMC's mission; Strives to continuously improve program quality, teaching effectiveness; and professional competence. participates in ongoing departmental efforts to improve curriculum and the teaching-learning environment. Shows commitment to work in an environment committed to Total Quality Improvement (TQI); Develops and maintains, for evaluation purposes, a Performance Portfolio which documents teaching performance and outcomes, demonstrates involvement and achievement in College and community activities, and reflects continuous professional growth; Provides information and assistance to the Department Chair in budget matters relating to the Hospitality & Tourism Management and Business degree programs. Submits to the Department Chair information on activities, accomplishments, and problems/concerns for monthly reports; Provides the Department Chair w/information for textbook orders; Maintains good working relationship with departmental personnel and other College employees; Adheres to College policies and procedures; Performs other related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

Class A:

- Master's Degree in Tourism and/or Hospitality; and
- 60 Month Experience in Hospitality or Tourism Industries; or

Class B (Alternative Field of Study):

- Master's Degree in Business Administration or Business Management or Administration or Marketing or related field; and
- Eighteen (18) graduate credits in Tourism and/or Hospitality.

Foreign Equivalence is acceptable for both Class A and Class B

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

Polly DLG. Masga, Director – Human Resources
Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus
P.O. Box 501250, Saipan, MP 96950
Contact no. 670-234-5498 | E-mail: polly.masga@marianas.edu

WE ARE AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The disgraceful lies of Fox 'News'

“We Report, You Decide” was among Fox News’ marketing mantras when the then-upstart network was challenging CNN.

A more truthful slogan these days would be “They endorsed” — the admission, made under oath by Fox Corp. Chairman Rupert Murdoch, that several of his network’s hosts knowingly lied to their audience by embracing conspiracy theories about the results of the 2020 presidential election.

Murdoch’s court-induced honesty came in the Dominion Voting Systems case against Fox News over erroneous claims made about Dominion during the manufactured controversy over the election legitimately won by Joe Biden, not former President Donald Trump.

Several Fox hosts irresponsibly and irrepressibly advanced Trump’s falsehoods, partly by allowing sycophantic supporters like lawyers Rudy Giuliani and Sidney Powell to recklessly charge the election was being stolen from Trump. The “endorsements” were made despite some of these same hosts privately disparaging the attorneys’ barely contested on-air claims.

“Sidney Powell is lying,” Fox Host Tucker Carlson texted a Fox News producer on Nov. 16, 2020, in just one of many examples of the duplicity of hosts working for an ostensible news organization. Carlson colleague Laura Ingraham texted him that Powell was “a complete nut. No one will work with her. Ditto with Rudy.”

And yet Fox News largely let both go unchallenged, working up its audience before the deadly Jan. 6 attacks on the U.S. Capitol and building the foundation of falsehoods that Trump still proffers in his presidential campaign to reclaim the White House in 2024.

The text exchanges, which came from depositions in the Dominion case, also revealed host Sean Hannity saying, “that whole narrative that Sidney was pushing, I did not believe it for one second.” However, Fox viewers were given a decidedly different perspective from Hannity, with weeks of careless commentary on the election results.

Off-air, Hannity was “privately disgusted by Trump for weeks, but was scared to lose viewers,” Murdoch said in an email included in a court filing.

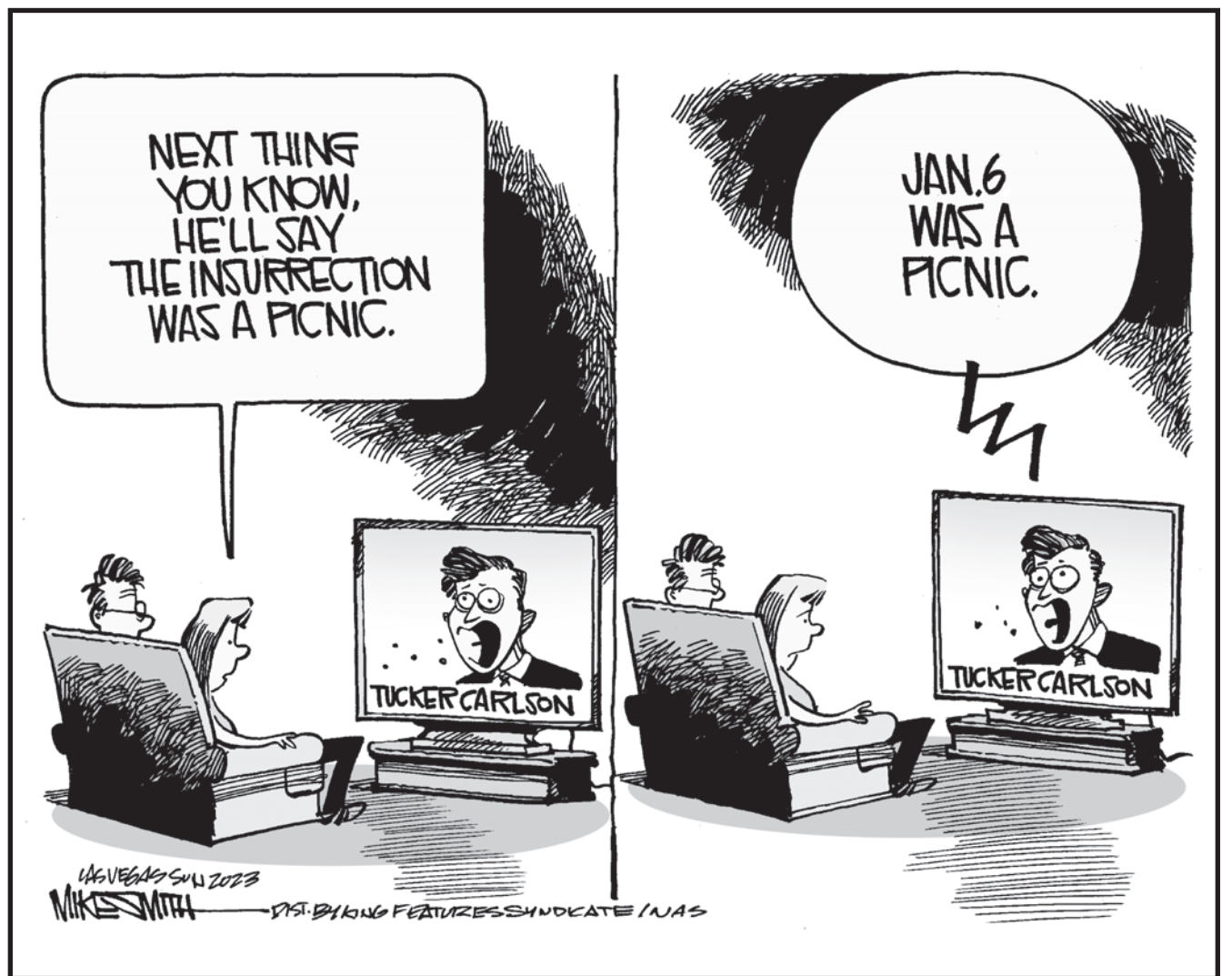
News organizations shouldn’t have a “side” or be co-opted to engage in “loyal opposition.” But Fox became an unofficial arm of the Republican Party, propagandizing instead of walking the talk of its old slogan.

Those unprofessionally and unethically tight ties between Fox and the GOP may be even more insidious, according to Dominion’s court filing, which alleges that “During Trump’s campaign, Rupert (Murdoch) provided Trump’s son-in-law and senior adviser, Jared Kushner, with Fox confidential information about Biden’s ads, along with debate strategy.”

The symbiotic Fox-Republican relationship was reflected in the disgraceful decision by current House Speaker Kevin McCarthy to release thousands of hours of surveillance footage of the Capitol attack to Carlson, who previously produced a documentary suggesting the U.S. government used the insurrection as an excuse to persecute conservatives, suggesting that it was a “false flag” to discredit Trump supporters.

After Murdoch’s testimony, so much for “We Report, You Decide.”

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How has American health care gone so wrong?

We all have bad weeks. Mine recently made me marvel at the astonishing dysfunction of our health care system. In calling out the system I intend no disrespect to the talented and heroic overachievers in nursing, pharmacy, medicine and the other providers who fight the system every day on behalf of our patients.

Despite such efforts, the sad but undeniable fact is that our health care system—the way the U.S. distributes and pays for health care—makes it the most expensive failed enterprise in the history of human civilization.

Part of what set me off that week was a series of examples of my patients’ chronic struggles to access mental health services. After years of poor funding and a deluge of demand since the pandemic began, providers are in short supply. Scarcity is coupled with barriers imposed by insurance networks. Absent reasonable access to services, primary care doctors like me become the psychiatrists of first and last resort, pushing the bounds of our competence. But what else can we do?

A second part of the week’s grind was the latest obstacles to drug therapy. The costs are so high for so many medicines that even insured patients struggle. Take Ozempic. There’s no generic, and it’s a financial stretch at nearly \$900 a month, but it helps my diabetic patients—until last week, when they couldn’t find it. Why? Because of its newly recognized use for weight loss. It’s suddenly so popular that pharmacies run out. How can a system allow wealthy individuals looking to shed a few pounds to use their cash to elbow aside diabetics who actually need the drug?

A third conspicuous failure of our health care system, looming in the background every week for physicians like me, is hospital funding. Hospitals have survived for years by collecting high fees from commercial insurers to subsidize losses from treating Medicaid and Medicare patients. With a rise in the cost of care, and a shift toward patients on government plans and away from private insurance, even the most prestigious and well managed hospitals, both locally and nationally, face an emerging flood of red ink. Many are cutting costs sharply to preserve solvency. In a rational system, the revenue that supports critical institutions like hospitals would not be subject to perennial financial crises.

These are only a few of the ways that the U.S. health care system’s failures now weigh on physicians. Here’s something else that should be haunting every American: The costs of this failing system challenge comprehension. As a comparison, World War II appropriately set the benchmark for unrestrained public spending, as the U.S. government poured almost \$6 trillion (in current dollars) into the military from 1940 to 1945. We now

By **DANIEL J. STONE**

Los Angeles Times

Daniel J. Stone practices internal medicine in Beverly Hills.

spend more than \$4 trillion on health care each year. What do we get for that staggering sum? Statistics compiled by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development tell an embarrassing story. On critical rankings such as life expectancy at birth and deaths from avoidable conditions the U.S. ranked near the bottom.

Why has the U.S., the world leader in drug and health care technology, fallen so far behind? The answer is that the system stopped serving the public long ago. It serves the needs of those profiting from health care. Powerful lobbies representing insurance companies, drug companies, doctor groups and others block meaningful reforms.

The insurance industry poses the greatest obstacle. Its administrative overhead cost is around 17% of revenue, compared with Medicare, which spends only 2% of operating expenditures on administration. If a federal single-payer system—like “Medicare for All”—saved even 10% of what insurers are wasting on administration, the extra billions could revolutionize care. That sum could expand mental health care, subsidize drug access and stabilize hospital funding.

As we pay more and more for substandard care, increased attention inevitably will be drawn to the system’s conspicuous weaknesses, especially administrative waste. Overcoming the special interests and solving the problems will prove no small task. The inertia of our political system required the Depression to enact Social Security. Improving insurance access through the Affordable Care Act required an influx of legislative reformers inspired by the financial crisis of 2008.

I’m not sure what national calamity will be required to overcome the status quo this time, but American health care’s failures certainly are mounting. When inevitable major reform finally occurs, those like me who make our living in health care deserve input. But the patients who pay the bills and live and die in our system deserve changes that would prioritize compassion over profit.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Worried that ChatGPT is coming for your job? An old assessment tool may have the answer

“**A**I passes U.S. medical licensing exam.” “ChatGPT passes law school exams despite ‘mediocre’ performance.” “Would ChatGPT get a Wharton MBA?”

Headlines such as these have recently touted (and often exaggerated) the successes of ChatGPT, an artificial intelligence tool capable of writing sophisticated text responses to human prompts. These successes follow a long tradition of comparing an AI’s ability to that of human experts, such as Deep Blue’s chess victory over Gary Kasparov in 1997, IBM Watson’s “Jeopardy!” victory over Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter in 2011, and AlphaGo’s victory in the game Go over Lee Sedol in 2016.

The implied subtext of these recent headlines is more alarmist: AI is coming for your job. It’s as smart as your doctor, your lawyer and that consultant you hired. It heralds an imminent, pervasive disruption to our lives.

But sensationalism aside, does comparison of AI with human performance tell us anything practically useful? How should we effectively utilize an AI that passes the U.S. medical licensing exam? Could it reliably and safely collect medical histories during patient intake? What about offering a second opinion on a diagnosis? These kinds of questions can’t be answered by performing comparably to a human on the medical licensing exam.

The problem is most people have little AI literacy—an understanding of when and how to use AI tools effectively. What we need is a straightforward, general-purpose framework for assessing the strengths and weaknesses of AI tools that everyone can use. Only then can the public make informed decisions about incorporating those tools into our daily lives.

To meet this need, my research group turned to an old idea from education: Bloom’s Taxonomy. First published in 1956 and later revised in 2001, Bloom’s Taxonomy is a hierarchy describing levels of thinking in which higher levels represent more complex thought. Its six levels are: 1) Remember—recall basic facts, 2) Understand—explain concepts, 3) Apply—use information in new situations, 4) Analyze—draw connections between ideas, 5)

Evaluate—critique or justify a decision or opinion, and 6) Create—produce original work.

These six levels are intuitive, even for non-experts, but specific enough to make meaningful assessments. Moreover, Bloom’s Taxonomy isn’t tied to a particular technology—it applies to cognition broadly. We can use it to assess the strengths and limitations of ChatGPT or other AI tools that manipulate images, create audio, or pilot drones.

My research group has begun assessing ChatGPT through the lens of Bloom’s Taxonomy by asking it to respond to variations on a prompt, each targeting a different level of cognition.

For example, we asked the AI: “Suppose demand for COVID vaccines this winter is forecasted to be 1 million doses plus or minus 300,000 doses. How much should we stock to meet 95% of demand?”—an Apply task. We then modified the question, asking it to “Discuss the pros and cons of ordering 1.8 million vaccines”—an Evaluate level task. Then we compared the quality of the two responses and repeated this exercise for all six levels of the taxonomy.

Preliminary results are instructive. ChatGPT generally does well with Recall, Understand and Apply tasks but struggles with the more complex Analyze and Evaluate tasks. With the first prompt, ChatGPT responded well by applying and explaining a formula to suggest a reasonable vaccine quantity (albeit making a small arithmetic mistake in the process).

With the second, however, ChatGPT waffled unconvincingly about having too much or too little vaccine. It made no quantitative assessment of these risks, did not account for the logistical challenges of cold storage for such an immense quantity and did not warn of the possibility that a vaccine-resistant variant might arise.

We are seeing similar behavior for different prompts across these taxonomy levels. Thus, Bloom’s Taxonomy allows us to draw more nuanced assessments of the AI technology than raw human versus AI comparison.

As for our doctor, lawyer, and consultant, Bloom’s Taxonomy also provides a more nuanced view of how AI might someday reshape—not replace—these professions. Although AI may ex-

By **VISHAL GUPTA**

Los Angeles Times

Vishal Gupta is an associate professor of data sciences and operations at the USC Marshall School of Business and holds a courtesy appointment in the department of industrial and systems engineering.



cel at Recall and Understand tasks, few people consult their doctor to inventory all possible symptoms of a disease or ask their lawyer to recite case law verbatim or hire a consultant to explain the theory of Porter’s Five Forces.

But we turn to experts for higher-level cognitive tasks. We value our doctor’s clinical judgment in weighing the benefits and risks of a treatment plan, our lawyer’s ability to synthesize precedent and advocate on our behalf, and a consultant’s ability to identify an out-of-the-box solution no one else thought of. These skills are Analyze, Evaluate and Create tasks, levels of cognition where AI technology currently falls short.

Using Bloom’s Taxonomy we can see that effective human-AI collaboration will largely mean delegating lower-level cognitive tasks so that we can focus our energy on more complex, cognitive tasks. Thus, instead of dwelling on whether an AI can compete with a human expert, we should be asking how well an AI’s capabilities can be used to help foster human critical thinking, judgment and creativity.

Of course, Bloom’s Taxonomy has its own limitations. Many complex tasks involve multiple levels of the taxonomy, frustrating attempts at categorization. And Bloom’s Taxonomy does not directly address issues of bias or racism, a major concern in large-scale AI applications. But while imperfect, Bloom’s Taxonomy remains useful. It is simple enough for everyone to grasp, general-purpose enough to apply to a broad range of AI tools, and structured enough to ensure we ask a consistent, thorough set of questions of those tools.

Much like the rise of social media and fake news requires us to develop better media literacy, tools such as ChatGPT demand that we develop our AI literacy. Bloom’s Taxonomy offers a way to think about what AI can do—and what it can’t—as this type of technology becomes embedded in more parts of our lives.

Chris Rock didn’t deck Will Smith because he was trying to take the high road. He was trying to stay in white people’s good graces

At the very end of Chris Rock’s live Netflix special “Selective Outrage,” Rock tried to explain why he didn’t deck Will Smith the night of the infamous Oscar slap.

“I got parents,” Rock yelled, capping off a frenetic, hour-long performance at Baltimore’s Hippodrome Theatre Saturday night. “And you know what my parents taught me: Don’t fight in front of white people.”

This mic drop—or self-hate nonsense—disappointed me. At a time when Black people are freely centering our needs and feelings over the thoughts of white people, the closing punchline was tone deaf. Rock, at his highly-anticipated concert special, prioritizing the reactions of white people over his own pain.

Not only is Rock still in pain, he’s mad as hell. A year after the infamous slap, Smith’s 1991 hit “Summertime” is still ringing in his ears. Rock joked Smith is significantly bigger than he is. “Will Smith played Muhammad Ali in a movie, I played Pookie in New Jack City.” So, if Rock simply said he didn’t want to catch a beatdown, I’d respect that. I just wish Rock’s reasoning for taking the high road didn’t revolve around his need to stay in white people’s good graces. It would have been more effective if he framed his reasoning in such a way that it was clear what he thinks about himself matters more. After all, Rock should know good behavior won’t protect him, or any other Black person, from racism.

This way of thinking is why Black people often struggle with healthy self-expression. It’s why we mask our feelings when white people are around. I get it. My parents warned me of the perils of acting a fool in front of white people, too. One false move and their reputations would be sullied. They could lose their good jobs. But this is 2023 and Rock is rich, as he reminded

us during his set. He is so rich his daughter Lola got kicked out of an elite private high school for getting drunk with friends. She’s studying the culinary arts in Paris. Why do white people’s opinions matter so much to him?

Rock’s good-home-training quip wasn’t the only part of the show that made me want to hang my head in shame. He traded in colorism, saying Meghan Markle hit the light-skinned lottery. He made fun of Golden State Warrior Draymond Green’s dark ebony complexion. “He’s so dark, he’ll sneak up on you,” Rock squealed with giddy irreverence. His gratuitous use of the N-word made me wince. He referred to Will and Jada as B-words countless times. It got really nasty.

“Selective Outrage” wasn’t completely cringe-worthy. The concert’s black and red logo was a clear nod to old school hip-hop artists Run DMC’s merch art. Rock’s take on white Trump supporters who stormed the Capitol two years ago because they were losing their country was spot-on. “How are you going to overturn a government that you run?” Rock incredulously asked. He forced me to check my own selective outrage when he called out Michael Jackson fans who still listen to the King of Pop’s music despite the singer’s sexual abuse allegations. And he told us the story about his mom, Rosalie, who grew up in a rural South Carolina town in the 1950s when it was against the law for Black people to go to white dentists so Black people had to get teeth fixed at the vet’s office. “I’m not talking about Harriet Tubman,” Rock said. “I’m talking about my mother. She’s sitting over there.”

But Rock’s wise observations got lost in his own anger and selective outrage. Unlike Smith, who reacted in the moment, Rock had a whole year to come up with a response that was both funny and sensitive. Instead of being more insightful and opening the

By **ELIZABETH WELLINGTON**

The Philadelphia Inquirer



road to forgiveness, he doubled down on his anger, dabbled in misogyny, and trotted out the very trope that keeps us collectively mired in not being good enough.

Rock even suggested Smith should have directed his fury at his wife because she had an affair. (The couple has previously said they are in an open marriage.) In Rock’s mind, his insensitive joke about Jada’s hair loss—she’s suffering from alopecia—had nothing to do with Smith’s split-second bad decision to knock the taste out of Rock’s mouth. Rock’s Saturday night performance proves that the comedian is in pain and even after a year he hasn’t had a chance to work through it.






I believe him when he said that he loved Will Smith. “He made ‘Brand New Funk’” Rock said. “I loved him. I have rooted for Will Smith my whole life and now I watch Emancipation just to see him get whooped. He has me rooting for Massa.”

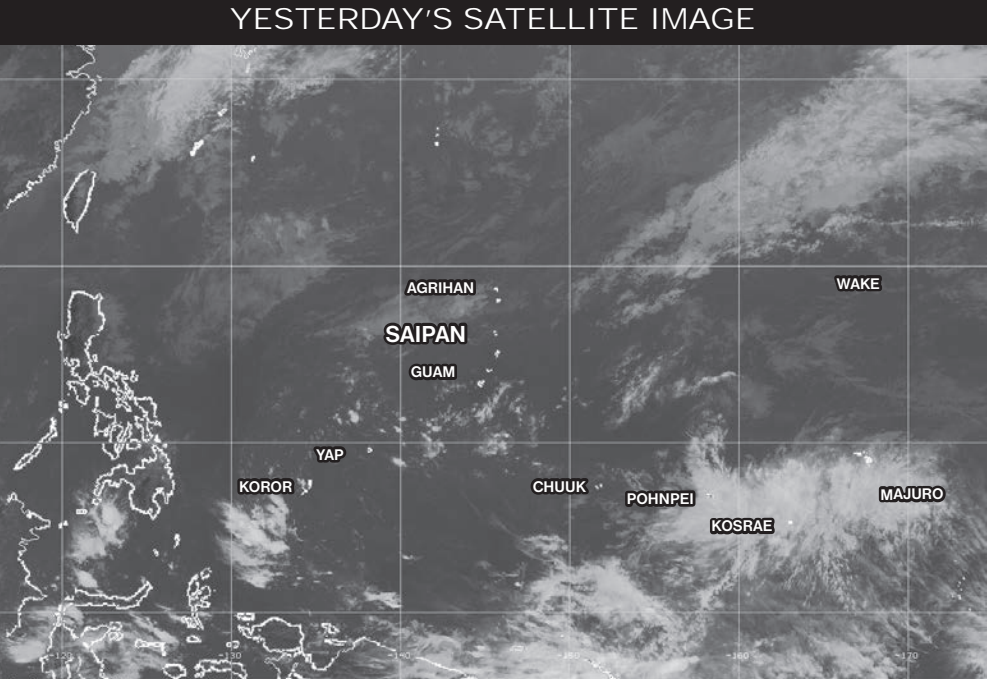
Again, Rock is prioritizing white people’s feelings and making fun of Black people’s pain.

Sigh.

Perhaps now that Rock has let his feelings out, he can let it go and get on with the business of healing. I hope so. That’s definitely more important than worrying about what white people think.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny		A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny	
85°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°



PICTURE TIME: 7:15 AM, THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Buoys measuring seas 5 to 7 feet, while latest altimetry scans have 7 to 10 foot seas to the west of the Marianas coastal waters. Satellite indicating isolated to low end scattered showers over the Marianas.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▲ ▼ °F		
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	84° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:28 AM	6:26 PM
Saturday	6:28 AM	6:26 PM
Sunday	6:27 AM	6:26 PM
Monday	6:26 AM	6:26 PM
Tuesday	6:25 AM	6:26 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:04 AM	8:41 PM
Saturday	-	8:40 AM	9:32 PM
Sunday	-	9:20 AM	10:26 PM
Monday	-	10:03 AM	11:24 PM
Tuesday	-	10:52 AM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE ▲ ▼ °F		
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	73° / 63°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	30° / 18°
Hong Kong	Cloudy	66° / 64°
Honolulu	Showers	81° / 71°
London	Showers	39° / 34°
Los Angeles	Sunny	82° / 51°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	82° / 59°
Miami	Sunny	70° / 55°
New York	Mostly Sunny	44° / 35°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	48° / 39°
Paris	Showers	43° / 34°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	50° / 43°
Rome	Rain	59° / 50°
Salem	Sunny	56° / 38°
San Francisco	Sunny	64° / 46°
Seoul	Sunny	27° / 14°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	46° / 34°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	46° / 34°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
3:21 AM	Low Tide	0.31
9:24 AM	High Tide	1.76
3:49 PM	Low Tide	0.41
9:38 PM	High Tide	1.67

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2023

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:30AM	7:25AM	Daily	PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily	UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
				UA189	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam	UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
				UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	6:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW9308	3:50AM	7:20AM	4, 7	TW307	8:45PM	2:15AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily	TW9307	9:20PM	2:50AM+1	3, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 6, 2023

SAIPAN TO TINIAN			TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:20 A.M.	11:38 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	12:00 P.M.	12:18 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3:40 P.M.	3:58 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	4:20 P.M.	4:38 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
9:40 A.M.	9:58 A.M.	6,7	10:20 A.M.	10:38 A.M.	6,7
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:20 A.M.	8:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	10:20 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
5:00 P.M.	5:40 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	6:00 P.M.	6:40 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7:40 A.M.	8:20 A.M.	6,7	8:40 A.M.	9:20 A.M.	6,7
3:00 P.M.	3:40 P.M.	6,7	4:00 P.M.	4:40 P.M.	6,7
SAIPAN TO GUAM			GUAM TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:00 P.M.	1:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2:00 P.M.	3:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	5:30 P.M.	6:30 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7:00 P.M.	8:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	9:00 P.M.	10:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
11:00 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	6,7	12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	6,7
5:00 P.M.	6:00 P.M.	6,7	6:30 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	6,7
ROTA TO GUAM			GUAM TO ROTA		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:20 A.M.	8:55 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	9:25 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
4:25 P.M.	5:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	3:30 P.M.	4:05 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun				
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
				3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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Business

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Happy Play soft-opens in Chalan Kanoa

A new boutique amusement arcade has opened in Chalan Kanoa with Happy Play offering residents in the area a momentary escape from the daily grind.

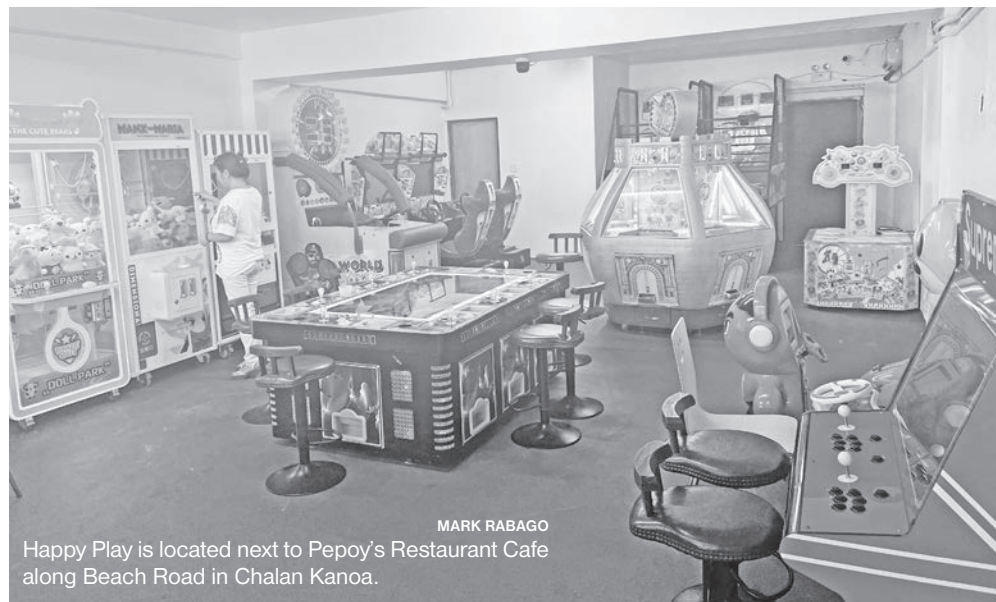
Operations manager Linda Lyu said they named the business Happy Play in hopes that everyone can release all their stress and pressures in their life by playing games.

"When I feel that life is boring and my heart is under too much pressure, I will release and resolve it by playing games, so that the satisfaction in my heart will be overwhelming. At the same time, I also play games and entertainment in my spare time, because playing games can improve one's reflexes, improve memory, develop creativity, and prevent Alzheimer's disease."

Lyu acknowledged the negative effects of playing too much, "playing games for a long time is also harmful to the eyes, and the time should not exceed 2-3 hours," she said.

At the end of the day, Happy Play and other amusement arcades like it, Lyu said, offer a new and different kind of entertainment to the island community.

"[These types of businesses] make people healthy and happy both physically and mentally. Because people living today are under too much



MARK RABAGO
Happy Play is located next to Pepoy's Restaurant Cafe along Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa.

pressure from all aspects. Whether they are teenagers, middle-aged, or old, playing games is one of the most effective ways to relieve stress. So, we named it Happy Play, hoping that our business can bring happiness to everyone."

Just some of the familiar arcade games at Happy Hour include the coin game Gold Fort, the feat of strength World Boxing, the Magic Shoot basketball game, a 3-D fishing game, and claw games like The Cute Bears and Manx Maria.

As far as setting up shop in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan's former capital, Lyu said the village is centrally located and is home to many residents.

"We chose CK because CK is a place where locals and people working on Saipan live relatively densely, which can

bring them convenience."

Some of the arcade game prizes that await players at Happy Play include high quality garlands, costumes, stuffed toys, dolls, and more.

"What's more, we don't charge any venue fee when you come to hold a party."

Lyu said what also sets Happy Play apart from other amusement arcades on Saipan is they have no age limit.

"Moreover, our games are all positive, without any unhealthy games such as violence and pornography. We are also very cautious in choosing games. We are based on the purpose of being healthy, positive, serving everyone, and joy. In the future, we will add competition games, and we will also provide free prizes."

Happy Play is open Mon-

day-Thursday, from 3pm to 8pm; Friday, from 3pm to 9pm, and Saturday-Sunday from 11am to 9pm.

Biden budget aims to cut deficits nearly \$3T over 10 years

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden's upcoming budget proposal aims to cut deficits by nearly \$3 trillion over the next decade, the White House said Wednesday.

That deficit reduction goal is significantly higher than the \$2 trillion that Biden had promised in his State of the Union address last month. It also is a sharp contrast with House Republicans, who have called for a path to a balanced budget but have yet to offer a blueprint.

The White House has consistently called into question Republicans' commitment to what it considers a sustainable



MARK RABAGO
Happy Play operations manager Linda Lyu, right, and staff pose next to the amusement arcade's player-friendly claw machines.

"Our closing time is very early because we don't want to affect everyone's sleep time and work quality because of playing games. We are based on the principle of healthy ev-

eryone and happy everyone."

Happy Play is located next to Pepoy's Restaurant Cafe along Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa. For more information, call (670) 989-0401.

federal budget. Administration officials have noted that the various tax plans and other policies previously backed by GOP lawmakers would add roughly \$3 trillion to the national debt over 10 years.

"This is something we think is important," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said about the plan Biden intends to discuss Thursday in Philadelphia. "This is something that shows the American people that we take this seriously."

As part of the budget, the president already has said he wants to increase the Medicare

payroll tax on people making more than \$400,000 per year and impose a tax on the holdings of billionaires and others with extreme degrees of wealth.

The proposal would seek to close the "carried interest" loophole that allows wealthy hedge fund managers and other to pay their taxes at a lower rate, and would prevent billionaires from being able to set aside large amounts of their holdings in tax-favored retirement accounts, according to an administration official. The plan also projects saving \$24 billion over 10 years by removing a tax subsidy for cryptocurrency transactions.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
CPA-RFP-007-23
GENERATOR PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES & REPAIRS

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP"), and other contract provisions, for proposals from qualified firms, companies and/or corporations to provide Generator Preventive Maintenance Services and Repairs at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport facilities.

This RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-50, Procurement Rules and Regulations of Title 40 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (the "NMIC"). Title 40, including chapter 40-50-225, Request for Proposals, is applicable to the process followed by the RFP.

The successful proposer will be awarded 2 years to perform the services with option to renew for an additional 2 years at the sole discretion of CPA.

The proposal package will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning February 21, 2023.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted if it's not in the best interest of CPA.

Proposals must be submitted no later than **4:00 P.M., March 23, 2023** to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. Proposals received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: _____

TROPICS REALTY
Cel: 670 483-4663
al@tropicsnmi.us

OTHER LISTINGS:

Saipan
1. 4,843 sq m Chalan Kiya vacant land
2. 5,968 sq m Chalan LauLau vacant land
3. 3,064 sq m Kobler vacant land

Tinian
2,000 sq m near Taga Beach
10,044 sq m vacant land

Rota
1. 5,493 sq m on main road to Airport near Rota Resort vacant land
2. 704 sq m Beach front vacant land
3. 4,000 sq m in Sabana vacant land
4. 918 sq m vacant land

AS PERDIDO SUBDIVISION UNDEVELOP LOTS FOR SALE
7 remaining
630 to 780 sq m lots available

Nation

Congress members warned of significant health data breach

WASHINGTON (AP)—Members of the House and Senate were informed Wednesday that hackers may have gained access to their sensitive personal data in a breach of a Washington, D.C., health insurance marketplace. Employees of the lawmakers and their families were also affected.

DC Health Link confirmed that data on an unspecified number of customers was affected and said it was notifying them and working with law enforcement. It said it was offering identity theft service to those affected and extending credit monitoring to all customers.

The FBI said it was aware of the incident and was assisting the investigation.

A broker on an online crime forum claimed to have records on 170,000 DC Health Link customers and was offering them for sale for an unspecified amount. The broker claimed they were stolen Monday. Reached by The Associated Press on an encrypted chat site, the broker did not say whether the data had been purchased and said they could not provide additional data to back the claim. They said they were acting on behalf of the seller, who they identified as “thekilob.”

Sample stolen data was



People walk outside the U.S. Capitol building in Washington on June 9, 2022.

AP

posted on the site for a dozen apparent customers. It included Social Security numbers, addresses, names of employers, phone numbers, emails and addresses. The AP reached one of the dozen by dialing a listed number.

“Oh my God,” the man said

when informed the information was public. All 12 people listed work for the same company or are family members.

In an email to all Senate email account holders, the sergeant at arms said it was informed that the stolen data included full names of the in-

sured and family members. An email sent out by the office of the Chief Administrative Office of the House on behalf of House Speaker Kevin McCarthy and Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries called the breach “egregious” and prom-

ised to provide updates. It urged members to use credit and identity theft monitoring resources.

The Senate email recommended that anyone registered on the health insurance exchange freeze their credit to

prevent identity theft.

In an emailed statement, Rep. Joe Morelle of New York said House leadership was informed by Capitol Police that DC Health Link “suffered an extraordinarily large data breach of enrollee information” that posed a “great risk” to members, employees and their family members. “At this time the cause, size, and scope of the data breach impacting the DC Health Link still needs to be determined by the FBI,” Morelle said.

The hack follows several recent breaches affecting U.S. agencies. Hackers broke into a U.S. Marshals Service computer system and activated ransomware on Feb. 17 after stealing personally identifiable data about agency employees and targets of investigations.

An FBI computer system was recently breached at the bureau’s New York field office, CNN reported in mid-February. Asked about that intrusion, the FBI issued a statement calling it “an isolated incident that has been contained.” It declined further comment, including when it occurred and whether ransomware was involved.

There was no indication the Health breach was ransomware-related.

Friend warned police Americans feared missing in Mexico

LAKE CITY, S.C. (AP)—The frantic effort to rescue four Americans taken captive in Mexico in a kidnapping that left two dead came after a woman traveling with the group contacted police when they did not return to the U.S. side as expected.

Cheryl Orange, who did not cross into Mexico with the others, told The Associated Press in a text message that her three friends were supposed to return within 15 minutes after dropping off their companion, Latavia McGee, for cosmetic surgery in the Mexican border city of Matamoros on Friday.

Orange stayed behind at a motel in Brownsville, Texas, and said she grew concerned as the hours passed and she did not hear from the others.

The five friends had driven a rented minivan from South Carolina on Thursday to the southern tip of Texas, according to a police report based on Orange’s account. Four of them left Friday morning around 8 a.m. to go to Mexico.

Orange’s statements and the report offer the most detailed account so far of what led to the kidnapping that saw McGee and another friend

whisked back to a U.S. hospital Tuesday after Mexican authorities rescued them and found the bodies of their two friends at a wooden shack on the outskirts of Matamoros. The attack also left a Mexican woman dead.

Orange told police she didn’t cross the border because she didn’t have her identification. She said she could not provide additional details because she was awaiting a call from McGee, who was to be released from a hospital in Brownsville. The other wounded American, Eric Williams, was also being treated at the hospital for a gunshot wound to the leg.

Americans Zindell Brown and Shaeed Woodard died in the attack.

Orange confirmed via text that the friends went on the trip to accompany McGee for cosmetic surgery.

“She simply went for a cosmetic surgery, and that’s it. That’s all, and this happened to them,” Orange said.

Mexican authorities have said the group was fired on and crashed their van soon after they crossed into Matamoros Friday, as drug cartel fac-

tions tore through the streets.

The Americans were hauled off in a pickup truck, and Mexican authorities frantically searched as the cartel moved them around — even taking them to a medical clinic — “to create confusion and avoid efforts to rescue them,” the region’s governor, Américo Villarreal, said Tuesday.

Orange told authorities in Brownsville that she had everyone’s luggage but had been unable to reach them, according to the police report.

“She tried calling their cell phones but they sound turned off,” the report states.

It said Orange was given a phone number to follow up with criminal investigators on Monday if she hadn’t heard from her friends.

A Brownsville Police Department spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment Wednesday. CNN was the first to report on the police report.

It’s unclear how the FBI, which is leading the investigation on the U.S. side, was first informed of the kidnapping. A spokeswoman for the agency had no immediate comment Wednesday.

ACROSS THE NATION

Senate GOP leader Mitch McConnell hospitalized after fall

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell has been hospitalized after tripping at a local hotel on Wednesday evening, a spokesman for the senator said. The Kentucky senator, 81, was attending a private dinner in Washington when he tripped. He was admitted to a hospital for treatment, spokesman Doug Andres said. McConnell’s office did not provide additional detail on his condition or how long he may be absent from the Senate. In 2019, the GOP leader tripped and fell at his home in Kentucky, suffering a shoulder fracture. At the time, he underwent surgery to repair the fracture in his shoulder. The Senate had just started a summer recess and he worked from home for some weeks as he recovered. First elected in 1984, McConnell in January became the longest-serving Senate leader when the new Congress convened, breaking the previous record of 16 years.

Report: 6-year-old won’t be charged after shooting teacher

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Authorities in the Virginia city where a 6-year-old shot and wounded his teacher will not seek criminal charges against the child, the local prosecutor told NBC News Wednesday, in a decision that was anticipated by legal experts. But Newport News Commonwealth’s Attorney Howard Gwynn said his office has yet to decide if any adults will be held criminally accountable. Newport News police have said that the boy used his mother’s 9mm handgun in the Jan. 6 shooting at Richneck Elementary School. A lawyer for the child’s mother has previously stated that the weapon, which was legally purchased, was secured on a high closet shelf and had a lock on it. Gwynn did not immediately respond to two phone messages and two emails from The Associated Press seeking comment. He told NBC that the “prospect that a 6-year-old can stand trial is problematic” because he wouldn’t have the competency to understand the legal system and what a charge means.

DeSantis’ new Disney World board hints at future controversy

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP)—The first meeting of the new board of Walt Disney World’s government —slation signed by Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis as punishment for Disney publicly challenging Florida’s so-called “Don’t Say Gay” bill—dealt with the rote affairs any other municipal government would handle: calls for better firefighter equipment, lessons on public records requests and bond ratings. But the five board members appointed by DeSantis hinted Wednesday at future controversial actions they may take, including prohibiting COVID-19 restrictions at Disney World and recommending the elimination of two cities that were created after the Florida Legislature in 1967 approved the theme park resort’s self-governance. The board also approved hiring the same law firm that advised the governor’s office in making changes to the governing district to help interpret the new legislation.

Asia

China’s Xi calls for ‘more quickly elevating’ armed forces

BELJING (AP)—China’s leader Xi Jinping has called for “more quickly elevating the armed forces to world-class standards,” in a speech days after he warned the country was threatened by a U.S.-led campaign of “containment, encirclement and suppression of China.”

China must maximize its “national strategic capabilities” in a bid to “systematically upgrade the country’s overall strength to cope with strategic risks, safeguard strategic interests and realize strategic objectives,” Xi said Wednesday.

His remarks to delegates in the ceremonial parliament representing the People’s Liberation Army, the military wing of the ruling Communist Party, and the paramilitary People’s Armed Police, were carried by the official Xinhua News Agency.

Xi made a series of calls to accelerate the build-up of self-reliance in science and technology, bolster strategic capabilities in emergency fields, make industrial and supply chains more resilient and make national reserves “more capable of safeguarding national security.”

The program laid out by Xi dovetails with a number of

national strategies already underway, including the “Made in China 2025” campaign to make China dominant in 10 key fields from integrated circuits to aerospace, and a decades-old campaign for civilian-military integration in the economy.

Xi also mentioned the need for “achieving the goals for the centenary of the PLA in 2027,” a date by which, according to some U.S. observers, China intends to have the capability of conquering self-governing Taiwan, an American ally, by military means.

China has defined the centenary goals in mostly vague terms, such as greater “informatization” and raising the PLA to “world-class standards.”

China needs to build “a strong system of strategic deterrent forces, raise the presence of combat forces in new domains and of new qualities, and deeply promote combat-oriented military training,” according to a speech Xi gave last year.

China’s defense budget has roughly doubled over the past decade, allowing it to maintain the world’s largest standing military, with 2 million members, the world’s largest navy by number of ships, and the largest missile and aviation forces in the Indo-Pacific.

^{AP}
In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, Chinese President Xi Jinping, bottom center, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, poses for a group photo with deputies from the delegation of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) and the People’s Armed Police Force before attending a plenary meeting of the delegation during the first session of the 14th National People’s Congress (NPC) in Beijing, on Wednesday, March 8, 2023.



WITH DOZENS STILL MISSING
Indonesia landslide deaths climb to 21

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Rescuers recovered more bodies buried under tons of mud from a landslide that crashed onto a hilly village on Indonesia’s remote Natuna islands, bringing the death toll to 21, officials said Thursday.

The landslide, triggered by torrential downpours, plunged down surrounding hills on Monday, burying 30 houses in Genting village on a tiny remote island in the Natuna archipelago at the edge of the South China Sea, the National Search and Rescue Agency said in a statement.

Authorities have deployed more than 200 rescuers from the search and rescue agency, police and military to search for 33 people still missing who were apparently trapped in houses that were buried under the landslide, which was 4 meters (13 feet) deep, it said.

Eight people were pulled out alive with injuries, three of whom are in critical condition, National Disaster Management Agency chief Suharyanto said Thursday. They were rushed late Monday to a hospital in Pontianak city on Borneo island, about 300 kilometers (186 miles) from Genting, but one person died

at sea on the way.

The search and rescue operation has been hampered by heavy rains around the disaster site. Weather has forced the search effort to be halted several times, while downed communications lines and electricity are also impeding the operation, said Suharyanto who, like many Indonesians, uses a single name.

“We are doing our best to find the missing victims,” Suharyanto said, adding that sniffer dogs are also being mobilized in the search.

Two helicopters and several vessels carrying rescuers, medical teams and relief supplies, including tents, blankets and food arrived on the island from Jakarta and nearby islands on Wednesday.

Monday’s landslide displaced about 1,300 people who were taken to four temporary shelters, Suharyanto said. Authorities feared the death toll could still rise.

Seasonal rains and high tides in recent days have caused dozens of landslides and widespread flooding across much of Indonesia, a chain of 17,000 islands where millions of people live in mountainous areas or near fertile flood plains close to rivers.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
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www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
As of March 10, 2023

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Sakura CNMI Corporation dba Sakura Marine Sports	12/29/2022 CRM-MD2022-0005	Temporary Beach Concession	Garapan, Saipan	Minor Development	ON HOLD*
2. Westlake Motor, LLC.	01/11/2023 APC2023-0019	Westlake Motor, LLC Rental Car Facility	San Roque, Saipan	Wetlands & Mangroves	Approved* 02/24/2023
3. Rota Mayor's Office	2/07/2023 RSm-2023-001	As Matmos Pavilion	As Matmos, Rota	Shoreline/Cliffline	Approved* 03/01/2023
4. Rota Mayor's Office	2/07/2023 RSm-2023-002	Pona Point Pavilion	Pona Point, Rota	Shoreline/Cliffline	Approved* 03/01/2023
5. Asia Pacific, Inc. dba Asia Marine Sports	02/09/2023 CRM-MD2023-0011	Temporary Beach Concession	Garapan, Saipan	Minor Development	ON HOLD*
6. Triple J Saipan, Inc.	02/14/2023 CRM-MD2023-0012	Triple J 5K Color Run/Walk	Garapan, Saipan	Minor Development	Approved* 02/28/2023
7. CNS, Inc	02/17/2023 CRM-MD2023-0013	Dry-Dock	Tanapag, Saipan	Minor Development	Approved* 02/24/2023
8. Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC)	2/17/2023 APC2023-0023	San Antonio Waterline Replacement Project	San Antonio, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 03/01/2023
9. Tinian Mayor's Office	2/23/2023 TSM-2023-001	Wooden deck with concrete posts	San Jose, Tinian	Shoreline	Under Review*
10. Hong Ye Rental & Construction Services, LTD.	2/27/2023 TPLM-2023-002	Demolition and Clearing	San Jose, Tinian	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
11. Phillips Corporation, Inc. dba Grotto Snorkeling Tour	2/28/2023 APC2023-0024	Snorkeling Tour	Grotto, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 03/03/2023
12. C Pacific Corporation dba Two Seasons Resort Suites	2/28/2023 APC2023-0025	Main Pool, Kids Pool, 2 Wooden Decks, Koi Pond, Landscaping, Driveway & Cistern Tank	Kannat Tabla, Saipan	Wetland	ON HOLD*
13. GPPC Marine, LLC.	3/2/2023 CRM-MD2023-0014	Dry-Dock	Garapan, Saipan	Minor Development	Approved* 03/06/2023
14. Terracotta Hotel Six Holdings, LLC.	3/7/2023 CRM-MS2023-0004	Transfer of Interest/Renovation of Hotel One	Garapan, Saipan	Major Siting	ON HOLD
15. Tinian Shipping Services, LLC.	3/7/2023 CRM-MD2023-0016	Dry Dock	Lower Base, Saipan	Minor Development	Under Review*
16. Department of Public Lands (DPL)	3/7/2023 APC2023-0026	Land Clearing on Tract 25-15 (Makaka Beach)	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

World

Governments criticized for keeping women from peace talks

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—On the eve of International Women's Day, leading women's rights campaigners at the United Nations and the African Union and a Nobel Peace Prize laureate criticized male-dominated governments Tuesday for excluding women from peace negotiations.

They complained that governments are ignoring a U.N. resolution adopted in 2000 demanding equal participation for women in talks to end conflicts.

Sima Bahous, head of the U.N. agency promoting gender equality, lamented "the regression in women's rights." She told the Security Council that "we have neither significantly changed the composition of peace tables, nor the impunity enjoyed by those who commit atrocities against women and girls."

Bahous, executive director of UN Women, called for "a radical change of direction."

She said action should be taken to mandate the inclusion of women at every meeting and in every decision-making process, with consequences for non-compliance. And funds should be channeled to women's groups in conflict-affected countries where the money is most needed, she said.

The Security Council was assessing the state of the reso-

lution it adopted on Oct. 31, 2000, that stresses the important role of women in preventing and resolving conflicts and demands their equal participation in all efforts to promote peace and security. It also calls on all parties to conflicts to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, especially rape and other forms of sexual abuse.

Since the 20th anniversary of the resolution in 2020, Bahous said, Afghanistan's Taliban rulers have imposed "gender apartheid" and war in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region reportedly led to sexual violence "at a staggering scale." Coups in conflict-affected countries in Africa's Sahel and Sudan to Myanmar have dramatically shrunk the civic space for women's organizations and activists, she added.

The U.N. Commission on the Status of Women began its annual two-week session Monday focusing on closing gender gaps in technology and innovation. It is also examining digital harassment and disinformation aimed at women that fosters violent misogyny.

Bahous cited a recent study that says politically motivated online abuse of women within Myanmar and from the country increased at least fivefold after that country's February 2021 coup.



An Afghan woman cleans customers's shoes in a street in Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, March 5, 2023. After the Taliban came to power in Afghanistan, women have been deprived of many of their basic rights.

"This mainly takes the form of sexualized threats and the release of home addresses, contact details, and personal photos or videos of women who had commented positively on groups opposing military rule in Myanmar," she said.

Mirjana Spoljaric Egger, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, addressed the gender-based violence aspect of the U.N. resolution, saying that "more than 100 armed conflicts are raging around the world" and hard-won gains toward gender

equality are being reversed.

"This is no coincidence," she said. "As respect for gender equality declines, violence rises."

Egger said the Red Cross sees "the brutal impact" every day of "sexual violence at the hands of arms bearers at shocking levels."

Liberian peace activist Leymah Gbowee, who mobilized street protests against the brutality of the country's long civil war and shared the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize, told the council that "it has been prov-

en time and again that men do make war but are unable to make peace themselves."

"Sadly, the conversation is the same in 2023," she said. "How do we discuss the issue of peace and security and leave out fifty percent of the population?"

Gbowee said that as the U.N. resolution on women,

peace and security approaches its 23rd anniversary "investment in its implementation is either stalled or slow."

Action plans submitted by governments are "a tool for politicians and political actors to window-dress women peace and security issues as they cover up for their failure" to advance women's rights, she said.

Gbowee called for women peace activists to be part of all peace missions, calling them "custodians of their communities."

"We will continue to search for peace in vain in our world unless we bring women to the table," she warned.

Bineta Diop, the African Union Commission chair's special envoy on women, peace and security, said in a virtual briefing to the council that the current impact of armed conflict on women and girls "is precarious."

Diop cited kidnappings in the Sahel, rape, killing and maiming of young girls and boys in Congo, and atrocities in the Lake Chad Basin and in East Africa, including "an unprecedented rate of sexual violence."

Ukraine says 5 dead, others hurt in Russian missile attacks

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukrainian officials say at least five people have been killed in a massive missile attack Thursday, and several more have been wounded.

Governor of the western Lviv region Maksym Kozyskyi said four people were killed there after a missile hit a residential area in the Zolochivskyi district.

Emergency workers were combing through the rubble, he said, under which more people could be trapped.

One person was killed in the Dnipropetrovsk region, its Gov. Serhii Lysak reported, adding that two more were wounded in multiple strikes across the region.

The Kyiv mayor reported damage in two districts, and the Kharkiv and Odesa governors said residential buildings were hit there.

Air raid sirens wailed for hours across Ukraine, including the capital, Kyiv, where explosions occurred in two western areas of the city. Defense systems were activated around the country, and it wasn't clear

how many missiles struck targets or were intercepted.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said explosions were reported in the Holosiivskyi district and emergency services were heading there. Two people were wounded in the Sviatoshynskyi district, also on the west side of the city, and cars were ablaze there, the mayor added.

In eastern Ukraine, 15 missiles struck Kharkiv and the outlying northeastern region, hitting residential buildings, according to Kharkiv Gov. Oleh Syniehubov. He promised to reveal more details about the scale of the damage or any casualties in Ukraine's second-largest city.

"Objects of critical infrastructure is again in the crosshairs of the occupants," he said in a Telegram post.

Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov reported on Telegram that there were "problems with electricity" in some parts of the city.

The governor of the southern Odesa region, Maksym Marchenko, also reported strikes on Odesa, saying that energy facilities and residen-

tial buildings were hit. Marchenko warned on Telegram for people to stay in shelters.

The Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, which is occupied by Russian forces, lost power as a result of the missile attacks, according to nuclear state operator Energoatom.

It was the sixth time the plant was in a state of blackout since it was taken over by Russia months ago, forcing it to rely on 18 diesel generators that can run the station for 10 days, Energoatom said. Nuclear plants need constant power to run cooling systems and avoid a meltdown.

"The countdown has begun," Energoatom said.

Ukraine's Energy Minister Herman Halushchenko condemned the missile strikes as "another barbaric massive attack on the energy infrastructure of Ukraine," saying in a Facebook post that facilities in Kyiv, Mykolaiv, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, Odesa, Dnipropetrovsk and Zhytomyr regions had been targeted.

Ukrainian Railways reported power outages in certain

areas, with 15 trains delayed up to an hour.

Preventive emergency power cuts were applied in Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk and Odesa regions, supplier DTEK said. Klitschko said 40% of consumers in Kyiv were without heating because of the emergency power cuts. Water supplies were uninterrupted, he said.

More explosions were reported in the northern city of Chemihiv and the western Lviv region, as well as in the cities of Dnipro, Lutsk and Rivne. Ukrainian media also report explosions in the western regions of Ivano-Frankivsk and Ternopil.

Russia has been hitting Ukraine with these massive missile attacks since last October. Initially, the barrages targeting the country's energy infrastructure took place weekly, plunging the entire cities into darkness, but became more spread out in time, with commentators speculating that Moscow may be saving up ammunition.

The last massive barrage took place on Feb. 16.

Chile says attempted \$32M airport heist leaves two dead

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—An airport shootout in Chile's capital killed a security officer and an alleged robber Wednesday in what authorities said was an attempted heist of more than \$32 million in cash aboard a plane from Miami.

Around 10 heavily armed robbers were able to skirt security measures to reach the runway at the Arturo Merino Benítez International Airport, where a Latam airlines aircraft had \$32.5 million in cash that was being transferred to an armored truck, Interior Subsecretary Manuel Monsalve said.

There was a shootout between the would-be robbers and security officials that killed an employee of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, or DGAC, as well as an alleged assailant.

The other robbers fled. Two burned vehicles were later found nearby.

"The brave action by the DGAC officials frustrated the robbery," Monsalve said, noting that the would-be robbers were "highly organized" and "very armed."

Video posted on social

media appeared to show bullet holes in a Delta plane that was parked next to the Latam aircraft that was targeted. Another video appears to show a moment in the shootout during which a lot of gunshots can be heard.

"There was no risk to passengers," DGAC chief Raúl Jorquera said.

The attempted heist targeted the \$32.5 million that were set to be transferred to an armored truck to then be distributed to several banks in the South American country.

The attempted robbery "will undoubtedly lead us to revise processes, protocols that must be improved ... it forces us to rethink many things," Jorquera said.

This was not the first time the airport in Chile's capital was targeted. In 2020, thieves stole some \$15 million from a warehouse in the airport, six years after a similar \$10 million heist.

President Gabriel Boric bemoaned the latest heist during a speech Wednesday in which he said that "when there's insecurity, everything else wobbles."

Off The Wall

Coming soon: Reese's Cups, chocolate bars made from plants

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reese's Peanut Butter Cups are getting the vegan treatment.

The Hershey Co. said Tuesday that Reese's Plant Based Peanut Butter Cups, which go on sale this month, will be its first vegan chocolates sold nationally. A second plant-based

offering, Hershey's Plant Based Extra Creamy with Almonds and Sea Salt, will follow in April.

The chocolates are made with oats instead of milk, Hershey said.

Hershey has experimented with vegan chocolate before. It sold an oat-based chocolate bar called Oat Made in

some test markets starting in 2021. But the new products will be the first sold throughout the U.S. under the "Plant Based" label.

Hershey said consumers want choice and are looking for products they consider healthier or with fewer ingredients, including reduced sugar and plant-based options. Hershey also introduced an organic version of Reese's Cups in February 2021.

Younger consumers, in particular, are looking to reduce consumption of animal-based products, says Euromonitor, a market research firm. In a 2021 survey, Euromonitor found that 54% of Generation Z consumers were restricting animal-based products from their diets, compared to 34% of Baby Boomers.

Nestle has sold its KitKat V, a vegan KitKat bar, in Europe since 2021, while Cadbury sells a vegan chocolate bar in the United Kingdom. But so far, U.S. vegan chocolate options

have generally been limited to premium brands, like Lindt, or organic chocolatiers like Hu Kitchen.

Hershey said it developed plant-based versions of Reese's Cups and Hershey bars—some of its

most popular products—because there's a dearth of mainstream plant-based chocolates in the U.S. market.

The plant-based versions will cost more. Hershey wouldn't share details because it said retailers set final prices. But Rite Aid lists a 1.4-ounce package of two plant-based Reese's Cups at \$2.49; that's about \$1 more than consumers would pay for a regular package. Hershey charges a similar premium for organic versions of its Reese's Cups, which went on sale in 2021.

And ditching the dairy won't cut calories. While Hershey didn't release all of the nutritional facts, the 1.4-ounce package of plant-based Reese's Cups have 210 calories; that's the same number of calories as a 1.5-ounce package of traditional Reese's Cups.



This image provided by The Hershey Company shows the company's new plant-based Reese's peanut butter cups.

Video captures dramatic moment SUV crashes into a Houston cafe

By BEATRICE DUPUY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A podcaster caught the startling moment an SUV crashed into the Houston cafe, sending shattering glass toward him and the guest he was interviewing on video.

No one was injured in the Saturday crash, Houston police said.

Seconds before the Chevrolet Tahoe plowed into Tout Suite cafe, podcaster Nathan Reeves said: "It got so quiet in here."

Video shows Reeves wiggling away after the impact slammed, breaking window panes against him and his guest.

"It was shock and a lot of adrenaline at first. But then after we made sure everybody seemed to be OK," the 20-year-old Reeves told the Associated Press. "I was just freaking out that I got the whole thing on film."

Reeves had been filming his interview with guest, Alexsey Reyes, a 22-year-old Houston photographer. It was Reeves' fifth episode for his YouTube Channel November Romeo.

A woman driving the Tahoe with two passengers had run a red light, and then struck a Ford Escape before crashing into the business where there were more than a dozen people inside, Houston police spokesperson John Cannon said.

The podcast episode showing the crash was uploaded to Reeves' YouTube channel and has amassed tens of thousands of views.

Days later, Reyes said he is still processing the crash, and that he found glass shards in his hair and arms later in the day.

"The more days pass (the more) I am realizing how badly it could have ended," he said.

Thar she blows! Canadian woman wins Key West conch contest

A Canadian woman and a pediatric cardiologist from Georgia won the men's and women's contests at Key West's annual Conch Shell Blowing Contest, using different techniques to impress Saturday's judges.

Brian Cardis of Macon, Georgia, played the Jimmy Buffett song "Fins" on a pink-lined conch shell with holes so it can be played like a flute, while Carol Whiteley of Ontario, Canada, blew a long, loud blast with her shell to best other competitors.

Cardis said he began blowing the marine mollusk shell about 10 years ago during a family visit to Key West, adapting techniques he learned playing the trumpet as a child.

"You sort of have to just buzz your lips when you're blowing into it," Cardis said. "You have to make a 'pffft' noise with your lips in order to generate the sound."

Whiteley said she plays the shell at her riverside home to celebrate sunsets.

Judges evaluated entrants ranging from children to seniors on the quality, novelty, duration and loudness of sounds they produced.

Other winners included Michael and Georgann Wachter, a couple from Avon Lake, Ohio, who performed a conch-shell-and-vocal duet parodying Elvis Presley's "Hound Dog" that drew cheers and laughter from spectators.

The conch shell, an enduring symbol of the Florida Keys, has been used as a maritime signaling device in the region for more than two centuries. The island chain is nicknamed the Conch Republic.

The contest was conceived by the Old Island Restoration Foundation in 1972 and took place in the garden of Key West's Oldest House Museum. (AP)

Colombia proposes shipping invasive hippos to India, Mexico

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Colombia is proposing transferring at least 70 hippopotamuses that live near Pablo Escobar's former ranch — descendants of four imported from Africa illegally by the late drug lord in the 1980s—to India and Mexico as part of a plan to control their population.

The hippos, which are territorial and weigh up to 3 tons, have spread far beyond the Hacienda Napoles ranch, located 200 kilometer (124 mile) from Bogota along the Magdalena River. Environmental authorities estimate there are about 130 hippos in the area in Antioquia province and their population could reach 400 in eight years.

Escobar's Hacienda Napoles —and the hippos — have become a sort of local tourist attraction in the years since the kingpin was killed by police in 1993. When his ranch was abandoned, the hippos survived and reproduced in local rivers and favorable climatic conditions.

Scientists warn the hippos do not have a natural predator in Colombia and are a potential problem for biodiversity since their feces change the composition of the rivers and could impact the habitat of manatees and capybaras. Last year, Colombia's government declared them a toxic invasive species.

The plan to take them to India and Mexico has been forming



Hippos float in the lake at Hacienda Napoles Park, once the private estate of drug kingpin Pablo Escobar who imported three female hippos and one male decades ago in Puerto Triunfo, Colombia, Feb. 4, 2021.

for more than a year, said Lina Marcela de los Ríos Morales, director of animal protection and welfare at Antioquia's environment ministry.

The hippos would be lured with food into large, iron containers and transferred by truck to the international airport in the city of Rionegro, 150 kilometers away. From there, they would be flown to India and Mexico, where there are sanctuaries and zoos capable of taking in and caring for the animals.

"It is possible to do, we already have experience relocating hippos in zoos nationwide," said David Echeverri López, a spokesman for

Cornare, the local environmental authority that would be in charge of the relocations.

The plan is to send 60 hippos to the Greens Zoological Rescue & Rehabilitation Kingdom in Gujarat, India, which De los Ríos Morales said would cover the cost of the containers and airlift. Another 10 hippos would go to zoos and sanctuaries in Mexico such as the Ostok, located in Sinaloa.

"We work with Ernesto Zazueta, who is the president of sanctuaries and zoos in Mexico, who is the one who liaisons with different countries and manage their rescues," said the official.

The plan is to focus on the

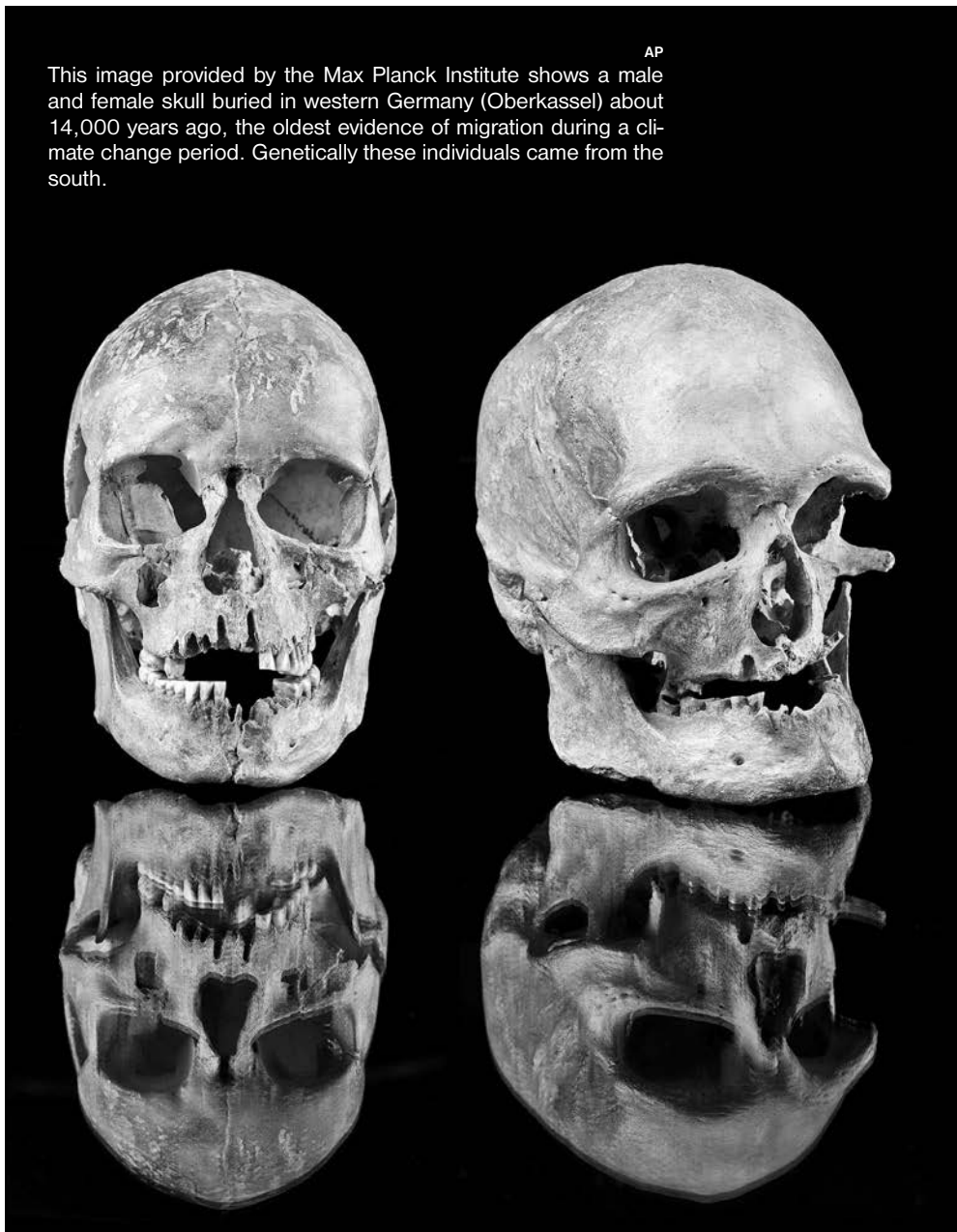
hippos living in the rivers surrounding the Hacienda Napoles ranch, not the ones inside the ranch because they are in a controlled environment and don't threaten the local ecosystem.

The relocations would help control the hippo population, and though the animals' native habitat is Africa, it is more humane than the alternate proposal of exterminating them as an invasive species, said De los Ríos Morales.

Ecuador, the Philippines and Botswana have also expressed their willingness to relocated Colombian hippos to their countries, according to the Antioquia Governor's Office.

Science & Technology

Ice Age Europeans found refuge in Spain, doom in Italy



AP
This image provided by the Max Planck Institute shows a male and female skull buried in western Germany (Oberkassel) about 14,000 years ago, the oldest evidence of migration during a climate change period. Genetically these individuals came from the south.

BERLIN (AP)—New research reveals that the hunter-gatherer people who dominated Europe 30,000 years ago sought refuge from the last Ice Age in warmer places, but only those who sheltered in what is now Spain and Portugal appear to have survived.

Using new genetic analysis of prehistoric human remains, scientists were able to trace the fate of the Gravettian culture, a term used to describe the people who once roamed Europe and produced distinctive tools and art such as the voluptuous 'Venus' figurines found at ancient sites across the continent.

The study, published Wednesday in the journal *Nature*, highlights the impact that climate change and migration had on the early inhabitants of Europe. It suggests that those who lived in what is now Italy when the ice expanded southward some 25,000 years ago appeared to have found themselves in a dead end compared to their cousins who lived in region that now covers parts of southern France, Spain and Portugal.

Those who went west sur-

vived the worst of the Ice Age, known to scientists as the last glacial maximum, said Cosimo Posth, a researcher at the University of Tuebingen who led the study.

"To our big surprise, in Italy the population that was present before the last glacial maximum completely disappears," said Posth. "They didn't make it."

Genetic analysis of individuals from Italy after the last Ice Age shows the dark-skinned, dark-eyed Gravettian population was replaced by newcomers from the Balkans, who brought blue eyes and a touch of Near Eastern ancestry with them.

The researchers analyzed 116 new genetic samples they added to 240 ancient specimens already known, covering a span from about 45,000 to 5,000 years ago.

The Gravettians who survived the Ice Age in Spain, meanwhile, mixed with migrants from the east as Europe warmed again almost 15,000 years ago and then swiftly repopulated the continent from Iberia to Poland and the British Isles, dominating it for

thousands of years.

The genetic footprint of the Gravettians can be found in the last Spanish hunter-gatherer populations until the arrival of the first farmers, who migrated to Europe from Anatolia some 8,000 years ago, said Posth.

In an accompanying commentary published by *Nature*, Ludovic Orlando of the Center for Anthropobiology and Genomics in Toulouse, France, said the study showed how climate change affected populations in Europe and that ancient human cultures weren't always ethnically homogenous.

Orlando, who was not involved in the study, said the findings also demonstrate how fluid Europe's genetic history was. "No modern population can claim a single origin from the human groups that first became established on the continent," he said.

Posth hopes to delve deeper into the history of ancient migration in Europe, particularly the mysterious people who arrived from the Balkans around the time of the last glacial maximum.

Oldest reference to Norse god Odin found in Danish treasure

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Scandinavian scientists said Wednesday that they have identified the oldest-known inscription referencing the Norse god Odin on part of a gold disc unearthed in western Denmark in 2020.

Lisbeth Imer, a runologist with the National Museum in Copenhagen, said the inscription represented the first solid evidence of Odin being worshipped as early as the 5th century—at least 150 years earlier than the previous oldest known reference, which was on a brooch found in southern Germany and dated to the second half of the 6th century.

The disc discovered in Denmark was part of a trove containing about a kilogram (2.2 pounds) of gold, including large medallions the size of saucers and Roman coins made into jewelry. It was unearthed in the village of Vindelev, central Jutland, and dubbed the Vindelev Hoard.



AP
The inscription 'He is Odin's man' is seen in a round half circle over the head of a figure on a golden bracteate unearthed in Vindelev, Denmark in late 2020.

Experts think the cache was buried 1,500 years ago, either to hide it from enemies or as a tribute to appease the gods. A golden bracteate—a kind of thin, ornamental pendant—carried an inscription that read, "He is Odin's man," likely referring to an unknown king or overlord.

"It's one of the best executed runic inscriptions that I have ever seen," Imer said. Runes

are symbols that early tribes in northern Europe used to communicate in writing.

Odin was one of the main gods in Norse mythology and was frequently associated with war as well as poetry.

More than 1,000 bracteates have been found in northern Europe, according to the National Museum in Copenhagen, where the trove discovered in 2020 is on display.

Try This

Super-strong eggshells

Chicken eggs are just thin shells of mineral, but you may be surprised how strong they are.

- Punch a hole in the small end of each egg, snip it larger and pour the eggs into the bowl
Give the eggs to your helper — they are good for cooking
Wash and air dry the shells
- Stick tape around each egg; carefully break away shell between tape and hole
- Put shells on floor in a square and gently put a book on them

How many more books do you think they can hold?

Add more books and see how strong the eggshells are

You'll need

- Four eggs
- Sharp scissors
- Bowl
- Tape
- Phone books or hardback books
- Adult helper

What happened?

Eggshells are strong because they work the same way as an arch or dome

Put weight on one place, and the curving shell spreads the force all around the egg

The strong walls of the shell support the weak point

WEIGHT

WEAK

STRONG

STRONG

... but weak if you push against its flat side

Eggshell is strong if you push against its end

Source: Reeko's Mad Scientist Lab

Graphic: TNS

Life & Style

Adidas wonders what to do with Yeezy shoes after Ye split

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—Adidas is still wrestling with how to dispose of 1.2 billion euros (\$1.3 billion) worth of Yeezy shoes after its breakup with the rapper formerly known as Kanye West, forcing the German sportswear maker into a big loss at the end of last year and expectations of more pain ahead.

CEO Bjorn Gulden said selling the popular line of shoes would mean paying royalties to Ye, who was dropped by Adidas five months ago after making antisemitic remarks on social media and in interviews. During an earnings call Wednesday, he pointed to “many variables” about what to do with the shoes now stacked in warehouses.

Destroying them could “raise sustainability issues,” though

some companies have offered recycling solutions, said Gulden, who was named CEO after the blowup over Ye’s remarks. Restitching them to hide the Yeezy brand so they could be sold “is not very honest, so it’s not an option,” he added.

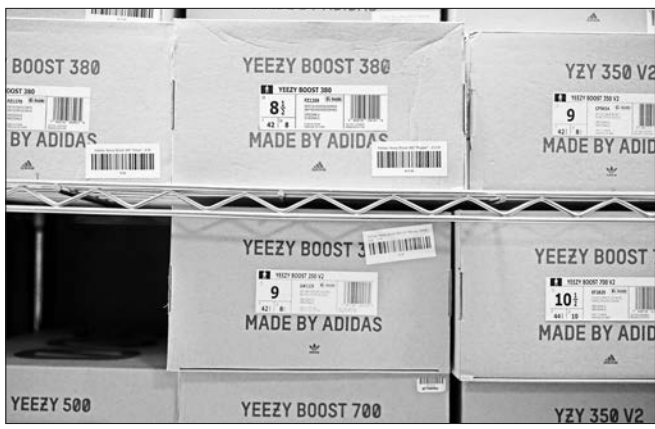
Suggestions to give them away to those in need in places like earthquake-hit Syria or Turkey would mean the product would “come back again very quickly” due to its high market value, “so that’s not really an option,” Gulden said.

If Adidas does decide to sell the shoes, “I can promise you that the people that have been hurt by this will also get something good out of it and get donations and proceeds in different ways, shapes or forms,” the CEO said.

Adidas split with Ye in October, following other brands that were facing pressure to end ties with the rapper over his antisemitic and other offensive remarks. The company is now struggling to find ways to become profitable again and replace its banner Yeezy line, which analysts have said amounted to as much as 15% of its net income.

The Ye breakup cost 600 million euros in lost sales in the

last three months of 2022, helping drive the company to a net loss of 513 million euros. The decline, also attributed to higher supply costs and slumping revenue in China, contrasts with profit of 213 million euros in the fourth quarter of 2021.



AP
Boxes containing Yeezy shoes made by Adidas are seen at Laced Up, a sneaker resale store, in Paramus, N.J., Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022.

Harry & Meghan’s daughter christened, will use royal title

LONDON (AP)—Prince Harry and his wife Meghan announced Wednesday that their daughter had been christened in a private ceremony in California, publicly calling her a princess and revealing for the first time that they will use royal titles for their children.

Princess Lilibet Diana, who turns two in June, was baptized on Friday by the Archbishop of Los Angeles, the Rev John Taylor, Harry and Meghan said in a statement. Lilibet’s title and that of her brother, Archie, who will be four in May, will be updated on the Buckingham Palace website later.

The announcement marked the first time that the chil-

dren’s titles had been used in public.

The question of the children’s titles took center stage two years ago during Harry and Meghan’s television interview with Oprah Winfrey. Meghan, who is biracial, said that when she was pregnant with Archie “they”—presumably the palace—“were saying they didn’t want him to be a prince ... which would be different from protocol.”

Meghan suggested that this was because Archie was the royal family’s “first member of color” and would have marked the first time a royal grandchild wasn’t given the same title as the other grandchildren.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Christopher Paolini returns to Eragon’s world with ‘Murtagh’

NEW YORK (AP)—Christopher Paolini will have new adventures out this fall from Alagaësia and the world of Eragon, featuring the Dragon Rider Murtagh. Random House Children’s Books announced Wednesday that Paolini’s “Murtagh,” a standalone novel that takes place a year after the events of his blockbuster “Inheritance Cycle,” will be published Nov. 7 with an announced first printing of 2 million copies. According to Random House, the novel is an “epic journey into lands both familiar and untraveled” as Murtagh and his dragon Thorn confront a “mysterious witch.” “‘Murtagh’ is the novel I’ve been waiting to write for over 13 years,” Paolini said in a statement. Paolini, 39, had yet to turn 20 when his debut novel “Eragon” made him one of the world’s most popular fantasy writers.

TSA agents seize gun from actor Mike Epps in Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Federal agents confiscated a loaded gun found in the hand luggage of actor and comedian Mike Epps, who was trying to board a flight at Indianapolis International Airport, airport police said. Transportation Security Administration officers discovered the Smith & Wesson .38-caliber pistol Sunday morning inside Epps’ backpack, airport police said. Epps, 52, told agents at the TSA checkpoint that he forgot he had the weapon in his bag. Agents seized the weapon but did not arrest Epps. Airport officials did not say where Epps was flying to or if he was travelling alone. The TSA forwarded the case to the Marion County prosecutor’s office to consider if charges are necessary. Spokesman Michael Lefler said Wednesday that the prosecutor’s office is reviewing the case.

Universal theme parks division gets new name in rebranding

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—The theme park parent company of The Wizarding World of Harry Potter and The Amazing Adventures of Spider-Man is getting a new name. Officials at Universal Parks & Resorts said Wednesday the division of Comcast NBCUniversal was changing its name to Universal Destinations & Experiences to better reflect the breadth of its offerings in Orlando, Florida, Southern California, Japan, China and other locations. The company recently announced it was building a new park geared toward young children in Frisco, Texas, and a Las Vegas-based immersive horror entertainment experience based on Universal’s classic horror films.

Jury deliberations begin for XXXTentacion’s accused killers

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—Jury deliberations began Wednesday in the trial

of three men accused of murdering rising rap star XXXTentacion during a 2018 robbery outside a Florida motorcycle shop after the alleged gunman’s attorney argued that DNA evidence proves his client and another man are innocent. Attorney Joseph Kimok gave the final defense closing argument in the trial of three men accused of first-degree murder, telling jurors that while the artist struggled with his killers before being shot and DNA was found on the body and on a stolen necklace, it wasn’t from his client, 28-year-old Michael Boatwright. Nor was it from accused second gunman Trayvon Newsome, 24, or accused getaway driver and ringleader Dedrick Williams, 26. “Whoever (XXXTentacion) struggled with is not in this courtroom,” Kimok told jurors as the four-week trial neared its conclusion. “The DNA proves that someone not named Michael Boatwright or Trayvon Newsome participated in this murder.”

Gym relationship harder to quit than membership

DEAR ABBY: I am a healthy, single, 76-year-old man. I spend lots of time at a local gym. I met a woman there two years ago, and we went out for coffee. She’s a few years younger than I am. She told me she was married, but it was a “complex” marriage. What started as a friendship morphed into an intimate affair.

We have many common interests and spend as much time as we can together, given the circumstances. I know she will never get divorced. I’ve fallen in love with her, but I have never pressured her to divorce. She has grown children, and she doesn’t want to upset them. I get it. There are also financial considerations and entanglements.

Over the last six months, our relationship has become strained. It has turned into a push-pull type of situation. I know it’s unhealthy for both of us, but I can’t seem to let her go. We’ve come to the brink several times, but we always have talked through it, and we keep limping along. I don’t know how to stop loving her. Even thinking about it causes me great mental distress. I’m looking for suggestions to ease the pain and figure out how to move on.

LOVING A MARRIED WOMAN IN MAINE

DEAR LOVING: Because thinking about it causes you great mental distress, go cold turkey. You deserve more

than to be someone’s side dish, but in order to find a more fulfilling relationship, you must let this woman go and allow her to focus on her “complex” marriage. Then, keep yourself busy, join another gym, avoid places where the two of you used to hang out and get back into the swing of life.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my boyfriend for six years. He is wonderful. We became engaged last year. His family has been nice to me, but on holidays, I dread bringing a dish or dessert because none of them touch whatever I bring. It’s insulting and hurtful. I end up upset and toss it in the trash.

I come from a large family. My parents immigrated from the Philippines, and I look forward to our family holiday celebrations. We all cook, appreciate and enjoy each dish or dessert we bring. I don’t know if my fiancé’s family is afraid to try my cooking even though I make common, simple, American dishes.

He doesn’t see the big deal when I raise the subject with him. My sisters all say I should stop bringing anything. Am I too sensitive? Is it worth taking anything to these gatherings?

HURT COOK IN KENTUCKY

DEAR COOK: Ask whoever is hosting these family get-togethers what the problem may be. It may have noth-

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



ing to do with your cooking, and more to do with the fact they are set in their ways when it comes to holiday celebrations. I have to say I agree with your sisters. Rather than waste the food, give it to a friend or relative who might enjoy it, keep it for yourself and your fiancé, or bring nothing more than a little “host” gift with you. Assorted nuts come to mind.

■■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

MOM! WAKE UP! COME QUICK!

WHAT'S WRONG? WHAT'S THE MATTER?

DO YOU THINK LOVE IS NOTHING BUT A BIOCHEMICAL REACTION DESIGNED TO MAKE SURE OUR GENES GET PASSED ON?

WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S ALL THAT'S KEEPING ME FROM STRANGLING YOU RIGHT NOW.

MOM'S MIDNIGHT REASSURANCES ARE NEVER VERY REASSURING.

LIZ AND I WATCHED A ROMANTIC COMEDY LAST NIGHT

IT WAS GREAT!

I FELL ASLEEP DURING THE TITLE SEQUENCE AND WOKE UP DURING THE FINAL CREDITS

ATTA BOY!

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHY ARE INTERNET COMMENTS SO MEAN?

JUST IGNORE THEM. IGNORE. IGNORE. IGNORE.

WAAH!

GAAA!

WAA!

WAIT. DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?

SEE? YOU'RE A PRO.

GWAA!

I'VE BEEN WORKING OUT ALL WEEK, AND I STILL CAN'T DO A CHIN-UP.

YOU LACK SOME FUNDAMENTALS.

UPPER BODY STRENGTH?

NO. A CHIN.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Like some private communi- ties

6 Peach center

9 Dadaist Jean Samuel

13 Rush- more face

14 Actress Salonga

15 Slow, in music

16 Fiddles (with)

18 — wheel (carnival ride)

20 Part of Q.E.D.

21 Sound of surprise

23 Heat source

24 Health insurance giant

25 Milk, in Mont- marte

27 Civil rights org.

29 Widen

31 Fix, in a way

35 Brick worker

37 Fine cotton

38 Egypt's Anwar

41 Indian lentil dish

43 Little louse

44 Lawyer Clooney

45 Casual pants

47 Singers' liabilities

49 En- counters

52 Con- clusion

53 Uno + uno

54 Archi- pelago part

55 Tofu source

56 Hotel amenity

57 "Yum!"

DOWN

1 Lass

2 Ginger

3 Sandwich wrapping

4 Diminu- tive suffix

5 Entrances

6 Film on metal

7 Sacred bird of Egypt

8 Hamilton bill

9 Warning

10 Aired again

11 Trattoria plateful

17 Maintain

19 Ancient letters

21 Vintage

22 "Bali —"

24 Tennis feat

26 Mexican entree

28 Former U.N. leader Kofi

30 Make lace

32 Sparkling decora- tions

33 Brit. record label

34 Squealer

36 Black Sea port

38 Fills up

39 Acid in proteins

40 Fop

42 Maximum

45 Let fall

46 Arizona city

48 Bill- boards

50 Hanoi holiday

51 Pigs' digs

Solution time: 25 mins.

I	M	D	B	P	A	N	C	P	A	S
G	I	R	L	A	M	A	H	A	N	K
O	R	E	O	C	O	P	A	C	T	I
R	E	W	O	R	K	S	U	L	K	E
	M	E	H		S	E	I			
A	L	B	S		E	M	B	A	T	T
L	I	A		A	I	R		I	O	N
L	U	C	R	E	T	I	A	S	N	U
	K	O	N		T	O	E			
T	O	P	D	O	G	P	R	A	G	U
E	L	A	N		A	A	A	V	E	R
R	A	C	E		I	N	C	E	R	S
I	N	K	Y		T	S	K		R	E

Yesterday's answer 3-10

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Olivia Wilde, 39; Carrie Underwood, 40; Jon Hamm, 52; Sharon Stone, 65.

Happy Birthday: Money and emotions won't mix well. Spending for the wrong reason or making changes you cannot afford will worsen matters. Put in the work required to reach your goal instead of making costly shortcuts or paying someone else to care for things you can do your- self. Fix and reuse what you have rather than re- place it. Choose a healthy lifestyle. Your numbers are 8, 10, 19, 23, 36, 40, 43.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19): Pay atten- tion to what people want and need from you to maintain a good relationship. Im- plement caution when traveling or doing some- thing risky that can lead to injury. Don't allow overindulgence to compromise your ability to function correctly. ★★★

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't lose sight of your responsibilities or leave loose ends that can jeopardize your position or project outcome. When in doubt, pull in an ex- pert for backup. Get enough sleep, remember to exercise and eat nutritious food to maintain good health. ★★★

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll have to be innovative and savvy when dealing with people asking for too much. Put your en- ergy where it counts, and don't share your plans or findings with anyone until you have everything in place to avoid interference. ★★★★★

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22): Soak up infor- mation that can help express your inter- est in something you want to pursue or infiltrate into your moneymaking plans. Travel

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Socializing, en- tertaining and using your charm to at- tract attention and interest in what you are doing will boost your momentum. Stick to your plans in order to avoid a negative response from someone who likes to complain or make you look bad. ★★★★★

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Explore the possibilities and implement change. What you learn from an expert will give you hope for a brighter future. Opportunity knocks and partnerships look promising. Keep your plans simple and affordable; the payoff will be better than anticipated. ★★★

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Stand up and be counted. Add your point of view and see if it stirs up controversy that can bring about positive change. Don't shy away from mak- ing a difference; embrace doing your part and spinning it into a way to grow. ★★★


♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Go the dis- tance, and don't stop until you are satisfied with the results. Get your house in order and your mind made up about how you spend your downtime. Look for outlets that excite you and people who offer mental stimulation. ★★★

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take nothing for granted. You'll only have yourself to blame if you are too trusting. If something sounds sketchy, dig deeper or back away altogether. Protect your rights, reputation and your assets from lofty individuals trying to take advantage of you. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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♏ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Slow down, think matters through and take a unique path that encourages the pursuit of knowledge. Evaluate relationships, what they mean to you and how they contribute to your goal. Honesty is mandatory when it comes to close connections.★★

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Trust and believe in yourself; you'll gain support and momentum. If you want to make changes at home, do the work yourself to save money and build the confidence you need to make your dreams come true. Don't be shy; commit. ★★★★★

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Stretch your imagination, and you'll devise a plan that encourages you to handle money, respon- sibilities and prospects sensibly. A routine that pro- motes self-improvement or a trendy image will give you leverage at functions that mix business with pleasure.★★★

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, passionate and helpful. You are intense and persuasive.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch- tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	5							6
	4		7				3	
2	3	8		6				5
5	7		6			8		1
		4		9		6		
	8	1		3				
	9		1			7	2	
7			3			5		1

Difficulty: ★★★★★

3-10

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	7	6	8	2	1	3	9	5
1	2	9	3	5	6	7	4	8
5	3	8	9	4	7	6	1	2
7	9	4	5	1	8	2	3	6
8	6	1	2	7	3	4	5	9
3	5	2	6	9	4	8	7	1
9	8	5	7	3	2	1	6	4
2	1	7	4	6	5	9	8	3
6	4	3	1	8	9	5	2	7

Difficulty: ★★★

3-9

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — hori- zontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TEQUILA

Solution: 10 letters

M P S U N R I S E Z E E U Q S
E A U R E E B C A P A T R O N
X L R R D L L R I L P C O K E
I O T G A E E C A Q T T R E G
C M I N A G E R U N A A A O D
O A C R O R U R M D R L Y E
J O V E N M I S O A E D O R W
E D A G A V E T S V B P E R E
N A R M A M R L A E A M B E R
A S O I I R S S A L G L A H E
S O U L N X N R B O L D F C S
W P Q D O K T I F R U I T Y T
E E I T O H S U S P L A N S E
E R L C Y E S O R H D E G A D
T S A E Y T A S T E C I L S V

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Agave, Aged, Aloe, Amber, Anejo, Barrel, Beer, Bold, Brand, Cherry, Citrus, Clear, Coke, Dark, Drink, Earthy, Flavor, Fruity, Garnish, Glass, Gold, Joven, Lemon, Lime, Liquor, Margarita, Mexico, Mixture, Paloma, Patron, Plan, Pour, Recipe, Reposado, Rested, Rose, Salt, Shot, Slice, Spicy, Squeeze, Sugar, Sunrise, Sweet, Taste, Tomato, Vanilla, Vera, Wedge, Yeast

Yesterday's Answer: Trailblazing

The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Booker, Ross help Suns rout Thunder after Durant injured



PHOENIX (AP)—Kevin Durant's expected home debut was over before it started after a pregame mishap.

Devin Booker was more than willing—and able—to pick up the scoring load.

Booker scored 44 points, Terrence Ross added 24 and the Phoenix Suns beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 132-101 on Wednesday night after losing Durant to an ankle injury during pregame warmups.

Phoenix has won four straight games, but that was almost an afterthought following Durant's injury. Even Booker admitted the game was a bit of bummer without their newest star on the floor.

"The city's been waiting on this, it was a big day," Booker said. "We'll reschedule the party. The people that missed out on it tonight, I tried to give them a little something to make it better."

A 13-time All-Star, Durant was added in a blockbuster trade deadline deal with Brooklyn and the Footprint Center was buzzing in anticipation of his home debut. But he rolled his left ankle while driving to the basket as he prepared to play.

The 6-foot-10 forward im-



Phoenix Suns guard Devin Booker (1) shoots over Oklahoma City Thunder forward Lindy Waters III during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, March 8, 2023, in Phoenix.

mediately hopped up and was walking, but several minutes later, the Suns confirmed that he would miss the game. Coach Monty Williams said he wasn't sure how much more time Durant would miss. "We'll get more testing done tomorrow," Suns coach Monty Williams said. "Right now, it's just an ankle sprain and we don't have anything

official to report."

With Durant out, Suns fans had to settle for a scoring show by Booker, who had 30 points in the first half.

The three-time All-Star shot 17 of 23 from the field—making 6 of 10 3-pointers—and received a standing ovation in the fourth quarter when he checked out of the game for the last time. He did his scoring in just 28 minutes on the court.

Ross also was 6 of 10 from 3-point range. Chris Paul had 18 points and nine assists. He made 4 of 5 3-pointers.

Oklahoma City played without All-Star guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander because of "abdominal strain injury management." The Thunder were overmatched without him and the Suns pulled away in the second half.

Lindy Waters III led the Thunder with 23 points. He made six 3-pointers and was just two points shy of his career high.

Durant has played three

Morant to miss 4 more games, Colorado police

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Memphis Grizzlies guard Ja Morant will be away from the team for at least four more games, the team said on Wednesday, shortly after police announced that he will not face charges in Colorado related to the livestreamed video in which he appeared to be displaying a gun in a strip club.

"Ja Morant will continue to remain away from the team for at least the next four games," the team said with no further comment.

That means Morant will miss games against Golden State on Thursday, home against Dallas on Saturday, at

games with the Suns—all on the road and all wins—but this was supposed to be his first game at home in front of a sellout crowd. He averaged 26.7 points and 7.3 rebounds in the three games.

His next chance to play at home will be Saturday against the Kings.

"I know how much he loves to play and wanted to play," Paul said. "But stuff happens."

Phoenix added Durant and T.J. Warren at the trade deadline, sending Mikal Bridges, Cam Johnson, Jae Crowder, four first-round picks and other draft compensation to the Brooklyn Nets.

The Suns pushed to a 34-21 lead after one quarter and had a 60-52 advantage at halftime. Booker shot 11 of 15 from the field in the first half while Waters had scored 21 for the Thunder.

"Obviously, Booker was great tonight," Thunder coach Mark Daigneault said. "Their offense was cooking and

Dallas on Monday and at Miami on March 15. The earliest he could play is March 17 at San Antonio, and there's no guarantee of that.

Meanwhile, the Glendale Police Department said it looked into the video, which was a stream that Morant showed on his Instagram channel while he seemed to be holding a firearm, and found no proof that a crime was committed. Glendale is an enclave surrounded by the city of Denver.

"In this case, it should be noted that on the night in question the GPD did not receive any calls for service at the nightclub regarding a weapon of any type," police

we didn't do a good enough job offensively to keep pace with them."

CELTICS 115, TRAIL BLAZERS 93

BOSTON (AP)—Jayson Tatum scored 30 points and made six 3-pointers and Boston beat Portland to snap a three-game losing streak.

Tatum had his 36th game this season with 30 or more points to help the Celtics avoid their first four-game losing streak.

Derrick White added 21 points and five assists. Al Horford finished with 17 points, six rebounds and assists. The Celtics played without big man Robert Williams as he recovers from a strained left hamstring.

Damian Lillard had 27 points and eight assists for Portland.

BULLS 117, NUGGETS 96

DENVER (AP)—Nikola Vucevic had 25 points and 15 rebounds, Zach LaVine scored 29 points on 12-of-18 shooting and Chicago beat Denver.

Chicago moved within a game of Washington for the final spot in the Eastern Conference play-in tournament, with 16 games left in the regular season.

Nikola Jokic led Western Conference-leading Denver with 18 points and 12 rebounds. Aaron Gordon had 17 points and nine rebounds.

CAVALIERS 104, HEAT 100

MIAMI (AP)—Darius Garland scored 25 points, Donovan Mitchell added 18 and Cleveland assured itself of a second consecutive winning season with a victory over Miami.

The Cavaliers (42-26) are two wins away from matching last season's win total, with 14 games left.

said. "Subsequently, no disturbances were reported, and no citizens or patrons of the club came forward to make a complaint.

"The investigation also concluded that no one was threatened or menaced with the firearm and in fact no firearm was ever located."

The NBA has said it is also looking into the matter, and has not announced any sanctions—such as a suspension—against Morant.

Police said the investigation confirmed that "the incident"—Morant was not named in the release, which only made reference to "a prominent NBA player"—occurred at an establishment

Jimmy Butler had 28 points for Miami.

The teams play again in Miami on Friday night.

PELICANS 113, MAVERICKS 106

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—CJ McCollum scored 13 of his 32 points in the final four minutes and New Orleans held off Dallas.

Dallas star guard Luka Doncic left in the third because of a strained left thigh after scoring 15 points. The Pelicans' Brandon Ingram left late in the second quarter with a sprained right ankle after scoring 12 points.

Kyrie Irving had 27 points for Dallas.

CLIPPERS 108, RAPTORS 100

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kawhi Leonard scored 24 points, Paul George had 23 and Los Angeles broke away in the second half to beat Toronto.

Leonard also had season-high 12 rebounds against the team he helped lead to the NBA title in 2019. The Clippers have won two straight after a five-game losing streak.

Pascal Siakam and Scottie Barnes each scored 20 points for Toronto, and O.G. Anunoby had 18 points. The Raptors have dropped two straight for the first time since Feb. 1.

HAWKS 122, WIZARDS 120

WASHINGTON (AP)—De'Andre Hunter's three-point play with 1:07 remaining put Atlanta ahead to stay, and the Hawks held off Washington despite a career-high 43 points by Kristaps Porzingis.

The teams will finish the two-game set in Washington on Friday night.

Trae Young led Atlanta with 28 points and 10 assists. He shot 11 of 14 from the field.

Kyle Kuzma had 25 points and 10 rebounds for the Wizards.

called Shotgun Willies in Glendale. The two-time All-Star streamed the video in the early hours of Saturday, after the Grizzlies played in Denver on Friday night.

The Grizzlies said Morant would be away from the team for at least two games—those were Sunday and Tuesday—and Morant later said that he decided "to take some time away to get help and work on learning better methods of dealing with stress and my overall well-being."

It is not clear what that means. Morant has not commented further and the Grizzlies have not shared what steps he is taking or why he is seeking help.

Pelicans' Zion Williamson out at least 2 more weeks

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Zion Williamson will be sidelined for at least two more weeks while the New Orleans Pelicans monitor the All-Star forward's recovery from a right hamstring injury that occurred more than two months ago, the club announced Wednesday night.

Recent medical imaging "revealed that Williamson's hamstring continues to heal," a statement released by the club said. "His next examination will take place in approximately two weeks."

After that next examination, the Pelicans will have 10 games left in the regular season.

New Orleans is 8-20 since Williamson's injury on Jan. 2 and entered Wednesday night's action in a three-way tie for 10th place in the Western Conference with a record of 31-34.

Now the Pelicans must play at least their next seven games without the 6-foot-6, 285-pound Williamson, who has averaged 26 points and seven rebounds in 29 games this season.

"My first thought is always for Z. It's been tough dealing with the hamstring and work-

ing to get himself back and kind of having the same issue again," Pelicans coach Willie Green said, alluding to a setback Williamson had in his recovery shortly before the All-Star game.

For the rest of the guys, we know where we are. Guys have to step up," Green said. "It's go time for us."

Green said Williamson has been building strength, performing pool workouts and spot shooting on the court.

"So, he's progressing, but we're extremely mindful of last time he got to six weeks and he wasn't quote ready," Green added.

Drafted first overall out of Duke in 2019, Williamson missed all of the 2021-22 season with a foot injury and most of his rookie season with a knee injury.

Since turning pro, he has played in a combined total of 114 games out of 292 regular season games and none of New Orleans' eight postseason games.

Last summer, Williamson signed five-year rookie max extension with New Orleans with a value ranging between \$193 million and \$231 million, based on incentives.

Analysis: Daniel Jones' new contract raises standard for QBs

By ROB MAADDI

AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER



Daniel Jones turned one decent season into a mega-money contract that raises the standard in the NFL.

Once the New York Giants gave Jones a deal worth \$160 million over four years—\$82 million is reportedly guaranteed for the first two seasons—the price tag went up for quarterbacks around the league. Way up.

If Jones can join Patrick Mahomes, Josh Allen and six others in the \$40 million-per-year club after a breakout season in which he threw just 15 touchdown passes and ran for seven more, how much money will more accomplished QBs get paid?

Before last season, the Giants declined to give Jones his fifth-year option at \$22.3 million. Now, they're paying him like a superstar after he helped lead them to a 9-7-1 record and their first playoff appearance since 2016.

But Jones was essentially a game manager who protected the football. His best performance came in a playoff win at Minnesota that was followed by a dud in a season-ending loss at Philadelphia.

Only Aaron Rodgers has an average annual salary of \$50 million per year. Lamar Jackson, Jalen Hurts, Joe Burrow and Justin Herbert should be next considering what Jones got from the Giants.

Jackson, the 2019 NFL MVP, received a nonexclusive franchise tag from the Baltimore Ravens so he'll make \$32.4 million this season—a bargain compared to Jones—if he doesn't sign a long-term deal. He doesn't have an agent who could've already finished what's become a drawn-out process.



New York Giants quarterback Daniel Jones plays during an NFL divisional round playoff football game, Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023, in Philadelphia. AP

Jackson can negotiate with other teams when free agency begins next week. The Ravens can match his best offer or they could take two first-round draft picks in return.

Jackson, who turned 26 in January, is 45-16 in four seasons with the Ravens. He's 1-3 in the playoffs but already is one of six quarterbacks in NFL history with 10,000 yards passing and 4,000 rushing.

Hurts, Burrow and Herbert are eligible for contract extensions this offseason.

Hurts led the Eagles to the Super Bowl and was runner-up to Patrick Mahomes for AP NFL MVP. He also was a finalist for Offensive Player of the Year after totaling 35 touchdowns, throwing for 3,701 yards and running for 760.

In Philadelphia's 38-35 loss to Mahomes and the Chiefs in the Super Bowl, Hurts had one of the best all-around games ever seen on football's biggest stage. He completed 71% of his passes for 304 yards and one TD, and ran for 70 yards and three scores.

A reasonable starting point for his contract negotiations would be Kyler Murray's deal—\$230.5 million over five years.

"Tremendous respect for him as a player, as a person," Eagles general manager Howie Roseman said of Hurts. "Tremendous respect for the people that work with him to do this, and you go through it in a way that you want to find a win-win solution. You want to find something that he feels really good about, and at the same time that we feel

good about and surround him with good players. He knows that. He's a smart guy. He understands that. That doesn't mean that it's not going to be a tremendous contract for him because he deserves that, too."

Burrow led the Cincinnati Bengals to the Super Bowl in his second season in 2021. Burrow has averaged 4,543 yards passing and 35 TDs over the past two years. It's expected he'll become the highest-paid player in NFL history whenever he signs his new deal.

"It's not done yet," Bengals GM Duke Tobin said last week. "You know, it's a good problem to have. I have been pretty vocal about what Joe means to us, and my job is to facilitate his success as best I can with putting pieces around him, and his contract will get done when it gets done. But it's a good problem to have. He's a vital part of what we're doing."

Herbert has 14,089 yards passing and 94 TDs in three seasons for the Los Angeles Chargers, who made the playoffs but blew a 27-0 lead in a wild-card loss to Jacksonville in January.

Agent Leigh Steinberg says Jones' contract "certainly enhances the market for other quarterbacks" and pointed to Jackson, Hurts, Burrow and Herbert.

"Jones has had an excellent season but is not considered their equivalent. All the other quarterbacks will see that as a floor and use it in negotiations," Steinberg told the AP.

Of course, guaranteed money is the most important part of any NFL contract. Deshaun Watson got \$230 million fully guaranteed over five years from the Cleveland Browns last year. No doubt Jackson wants at least the same, which has led to a stalemate in discussions.

Fully guaranteed deals didn't become a trend even though quarterbacks and their agents will continue to point to Watson getting his contract while mired in legal trouble. After Watson signed, Murray (\$189.5 million guaranteed) and Russell Wilson (\$161 million guaranteed) received less last summer and Derek Carr (\$100 million guaranteed) so far got the most this offseason.

Huge pay days now await Jackson, Hurts, Burrow, Herbert and others.

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—With 30 minutes before the NFL's deadline to franchise a player, general manager Joe Schoen wasn't sure whether the New York Giants would be able to finalize a long-term deal for quarterback Daniel Jones.

Nine straight days of contract talks had come down to 1,800 seconds. There were no timeouts.

Schoen said Wednesday that multiple emails had been set up to let the league know by 4 p.m. whether the Giants were going to put the franchise tag on Jones or running back Saquon Barkley.

As the minutes fell away, the Giants conceded some and the Athletes First agents representing Jones gave a little, too. The 25-year-old player approved the new middle ground

Giants signed Jones, franchised Barkley, have money to spare

and a four-year, \$160 million contract was struck—with six minutes to spare, Jones and Schoen said Wednesday.

It was enough time for the Giants to put their franchise tag on Barkley and allow the team to keep its two best offensive players after first winning season since 2016.

"I just wanted to know we had our quarterback here and it wasn't a franchise-tag type of deal," Schoen said of his goal. "That was to me, that was a worst-case scenario, putting the franchise tag on him. But I also knew I had that as a tool, so the deal had to make sense for the franchise both short-term and long-term."

While the deal has an annual average worth of \$40 million, it's structured to cre-

ate cap space this season.

Jones, who had a career season in 2022 in leading New York to its first playoff berth since '16, will have a base salary of \$9.5 million in 2023. His \$36 million signing bonus will be divided over the contract's four years so the cap hit will be about \$19 million this season after roster bonuses are added in.

Had Jones been franchised, the cap hit would have been \$32 million, and there was a chance he would have been a free agent again.

Schoen now plans to work on a long-term deals with Barkley before the summer deadline and defensive tackle Dexter Lawrence, who is under contract through next season. He also said the team probably will take the \$14.8 million cap

hit in dead money resulting from the planned release of receiver Kenny Golladay.

The team planned to talk to its remaining free agents over the next week to see if any new contracts can be reached before free agency starts next week.

Schoen said the staff also will get together to talk about potential free agents, needs and the draft. He said the Giants will have financial flexibility this year to continue building a team that went 9-7-1 in its first season under Brian Daboll.

"We really start building this thing knowing that we have Daniel in place," Schoen said, adding the organization believes the No. 6 overall pick in the 2019 can lead them to a

Super Bowl with the right supporting cast.

When Schoen was hired to replace Dave Gettleman last season, the Giants were in a horrible position in regard to the salary cap. Schoen laughed when asked if things were different.

"I'll give you a good example," he said. "We were just talking about a player, I won't name the position or anything is like, we're guessing what his market might: \$2 1/2 (million) and I'm like, 'We can afford that, it's only 2 1/2. We can actually afford it. We're not shopping for minimum players anymore.'"

Jones was in the Giants headquarters when the deal was finalized Tuesday. He signed the new contract later

in the evening and went out to dinner with some friends and his agents. And, yes, he picked up the tab.

During the three weeks of contract talks, Jones said he sought advice from former Giants quarterback Eli Manning and other players. He said there were times he wondered whether a long-term deal would be reached.

Jones said the new deal won't change his belief that he's responsible for how the teams plays. He has always felt that.

"It's my goal to earn that every day and in the offseason while we're preparing for the season and when we get to the season, doing my best and preparing this team to win games and me to put us in a position to do that," he said. "I take that responsibility very seriously."

TSL Foundation supports return of Triple J's Bubble Color Run

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation welcomes the return of Triple J Saipan 5K Family Fun Run/Walk's Bubble Color Run by donating \$10,000 to the event and serving as platinum sponsor for this Saturday's race.



Merlie Tolentino, executive

director of the TSL Foundation, handed over the donation to Triple J Saipan executives in a brief ceremony last week and renewed the foundation's commitment to programs that encourage the community to stay active and bring together people to

support a worthy cause. Proceeds from this year's Triple J Saipan Bubble Color Run will go to the Marianas March Against Cancer and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The 5K event had its last race in 2020 before taking a break in 2021 and 2022.

"We are pleased that the Tri-

Register today for NMC Golf Open on March 18 and 19

For the first time, the NMC Foundation Golf Open Tournament will be a two-day event and will be held on the east and west courses of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

The tournament fee for the 2023 golf open is \$250.

First place winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Ladies flights (low gross and low net) will each receive \$500. Second place finishers will receive \$300 and third place finishers will receive \$200.

This year's tournament will feature thousands of dollars in amazing hole-in-one prizes, such as a brand new 2023 Toyota 4Runner SR5 from Atkins Kroll Saipan, a brand new 2023 Hyundai IO-NIQ 5 SEL with Navigation

and AWD and a brand new 2023 Mitsubishi Outlander from Triple J Motors, a brand new 2023 Nissan Rogue from Joeten Motors, a \$10,000 shopping spree at Top Shelf Wine and Spirits, \$10,000 from Ambyth Shipping and Seafix Inc., \$5,000 from Pacifica Insurance, \$3,000 from McDonald's of Saipan, and a YETI cooler from Boarderline.

The tournament, which is the signature event of the NMC Foundation, aims to raise funds for the Northern Marianas College for its rebuilding and reconstruction efforts. Despite the devastation and destruction of super typhoons Soudelor and Yutu, the college has been aggressively seeking funds from all available sources to rebuild

classrooms, offices, labs, and workforce spaces for the CNMI community. The Foundation is seeking the CNMI private sector's support through fundraising events like the golf tournament.

Interested companies and individuals who would like to help the College with its rebuilding efforts can donate educational tax credit, cash, or in-kind contributions by visiting www.marianas.edu/golf or by contacting NMC Foundation coordinator Carla Sablan at carla.sablan@marianas.edu or (670) 237-6780.

For more updates, follow Northern Marianas College on Facebook and Instagram (nmc.proa) or visit www.marianas.edu.

For media inquiries, please email miguel.dandan@marianas.edu. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Triple J Enterprises, Inc. employees and executives receive the ceremonial check from the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, which is represented here by executive director Merlie Tolentino, front row second left. The donation is part of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation's platinum sponsorship of the Triple J Saipan Bubble Color Run.

ple J Saipan Bubble Color Run is back this year and like the previous editions of the event, we are honored to partner with Triple J in helping provide our community an activity that everyone, especially families, can join and enjoy," Tolentino said.

As the name of the event suggests, Triple J Saipan Bubble Color Run will have its participants looking forward to having foam and colored powder splatter on their clothing as they go through the course. Tomorrow's event will start at the Garapan Fish-

ing Base behind the Garapan Farmer's Market along Beach Road with participants going south kilometers toward the Quartermaster intersection. The turnaround point is before the Quartermaster traffic lights and participants will head back to the Garapan Fishing Base where free food and beverages from Payless Super Fresh & Truckload Store and Great Harvest Bread Co. await them as well as a grand raffle prize—a round trip ticket to anywhere in Asia or Micronesia.

"On behalf of Triple J En-

terprises, Inc. and affiliates, we extend our sincerest gratitude to the Tan Siu Lin Foundation and Tan Holdings for their generous contributions. For 39 years, we strive to improve lives and build better communities. It is companies and teams like yours that help us achieve these goals," said Khristine Lujan, Triple J Enterprises, Inc. vice president for Marketing and Publications.

This year's Triple J Saipan Bubble Color Run is expected to draw 1,400 participants and 250 volunteers. (PR)

MANNY

From Page 24

March 25, Sablan said "finally, baseball's back, so we'll see a lot of young young talents coming up. They're the future of representing CNMI in baseball so we just got to share the knowledge with them."

Race also took a slice of the cake for Coach of the Year as he coached the NMI National Tennis Team to three gold medals in the Mini Games. ATP Tour veteran Colin Sinclair prevailed in the men's singles and teamed up with Robbie Schorr in the men's doubles finals. Sinclair,

Schorr, Bobby Cruz, and Colin Ramsey also topped the men's team event. Also, Sinclair and Isabel Herras finished third in the mixed doubles.

The Hall of Famer and seven-time Coach of the Year winner, (2001, 2003, 2007, 2012, 2017, 2019, 2022) said, "coaching tennis is my passion, my vocation, and the thing I do the best... I must dedicate this to my wife, Heidi. She has put up with my tennis addiction for 38 years now."

Moverover, in 2022 for tennis, CNMI's LaHunn Lam made history by becoming the youngest player to play

in Wimbledon. CNMI netters made their home islands proud by again dominating the North Pacific Regional Championships last July.

For weightlifting's Labausa and Barnhouse, both coached the CNMI Weightlifting Team that took the biggest haul of medals in the Mini Games.

They handed Team NMI 11 gold medals, with Ray Santos and Barnhouse getting three apiece; Angel San Nicolas and Jason Limes gaining two each; and Joey Colisao adding one.

Additionally, they gave Team NMI the most silvers with 10 (three each from Leo Apelo and Labausa, two from

Colisao, and one apiece from Leowel Cristobal and Angel San Nicolas).

Labausa told Saipan Tribune after her win, "I was actually surprised that we were nominated for coach of the year and even more surprised that we won. I am saying 'we; because David Barnhouse and I were both coaches for the National Weightlifting Team at the Mini Games and we both helped each other tremendously throughout the season."

On why she coaches, she said "I really enjoy coaching because I want to give back to the community, which is the reason behind creating the

Barbell Club at Latte Built. I am very grateful for them and CNMI weightlifting as they both support this effort."

Her motivation in coaching is the people that stay dedicated to the sport and that "I have learned a lot from my previous coaches as an athlete in basketball and weightlifting and I just want to continue to keep passing on those positive traits to our athletes."

With a degree in Kinesiology and certificates to back up her experience and with eight years of weightlifting, she said she "unintentionally became a coach... I have taught many people how to do the Olympic style lifts since my first debut in 2018 preparing for the Micronesian Games in Yap. My main goal at the time was to teach anyone, especially females how to lift and inspire them to get out of their comfort zone and get strong, and also grow

our weightlifting team. Coincidentally the first person I have ever coached was Riella Ichio and look at her now, she's doing great. To clarify I do not coach her anymore but she is now my teammate and training partner. And that is awesome to me."

She then dedicated her win "to the athletes who put their trust in me as their coach along with my other half, Devine Pua, for supporting my aspirations to fulfill this role at the Pacific Mini Games. It was not an easy task but I appreciate the experience from it and I am honored to be named one of the coaches of the year. Thank you."

The event was sponsored by the TSL Foundation, led by executive director Merlie Tolentino.

Results of the other NMSA Sports Banquet awards will come out in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

MOORE'S

From Page 24

see like different shots being played and improving so quickly, so if she has a little bit of teaching and coaching I think she'll be really good."

PFNMI vice president Don Dunlop said the group really hit a homerun with Moore agreeing to conduct a two-day clinic at the AMP.

"The fact that Daniel came here and being such a world class player, now he's No. 11 in the world with a Dynamic Universal Pickleball Rating of 6.66, that means that we have someone exceptional coming to teach our game and bring it to a better, better level."

Dunlop said Moore's impact during the two-day clinic can be summed up by what

Micronesian Games table tennis gold medalist Charlie Cheng shared.

"Charlie said this clinic today has brought his level up another half a point, which is huge. We're getting responses from people that this is now giving them the confidence to play at a higher level," said Dunlop.

Guam's Dereck D. Alcorn said learning and playing against Moore gave him a bit of perspective on where he stands in the sport.

"It's funny because playing in the same pickleball groups on Saipan and Guam you kind of get complacent playing the same people all the time. But then having someone come in with multiple levels of pickleball skills has really opened up my eyes," he said.

Alcorn, a 41-year-old businessman, said there's a reason why Moore is one of the top players in the sport.

"You think they're winning shots, but no that's coming back. Because it's an everyday shot for him. So, we still have a lot to learn. I can't label it but it's kind of a feeling that I'm a little bit reenergized and challenged knowing that there's more work to be done. This is huge for Saipan and then he goes to Guam next, so we're excited that he's going there too," he said.

Cheng, meanwhile, said after Moore's four-hour marathon clinic yesterday he's markedly improved as a pickleball player.

"It's great and the biggest thing I learned today is that the weakest part of my game

is the drop shot and the lob. I believe I improved half a point after this clinic," said the 55-year-old entrepreneur.

Henson, the 15-year-old Marianas High School student Moore alluded to earlier, said the skills he imparted to them during the clinic will go a long way in furthering the sport in the islands.

"Daniel Moore is consistently testing our skills and honing them to be better and helping us go up a level. Hopefully, we'll retain the information and we will slowly add it to our arsenal of skills."

And her favorite part of the clinic was Moore's reset drills because they demonstrated techniques that "were very different from what we've seen here on Saipan before. It's very fun to see new things to learn."

KANOA

From Page 24

minutes right after.

Matansa's footing was not in play during the game as they could not get a grip of the ball long enough to shoot a goal.

After Kina Rangamar from SUFC and Rosie Saralu scored another goal each, Matansa were too outplayed to score a goal and fell, 5-0.

Shirley's are also at a 2-1 card after their win against Tan Holdings. Shirley's had an aggressive attack right from the

get-go, with the first goal by Toremy Diaz just 11 minutes into the game.

Jeraldine Castillo assisted the team with a goal of her own in the 26th minute and Mikayla Lopez handed the third goal—all before the second half. Tan Holdings could not regain composure as they ended the game unable to put up a point on the scoreboard.

In the bottom of the standings are MP United FC with one draw and one loss; Matansa has a one-draw and two-loss record; and Tan Holdings has two losses.



Booker, Ross help
Suns rout Thunder
after Durant
injured
PAGE 21

Saipan Tribune Sports

TSL Foundation
supports return of
Triple J's Bubble
Color Run
PAGE 23



24 FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2023

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Moore's 2-day clinic raises pickleball level in CNMI

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Nine-time national pickleball champion Daniel Moore is impressed with how quickly pickleball players on Saipan have picked up the fastest growing sport in the world.

"Saipan players are dedicated and motivated to learn and play the sport. Everyone's eager and hungry to learn. And I could really see that because people are asking questions and are very interested,"

the 26-year-old said after concluding his two-day clinic at the American Memorial Park pickleball courts yesterday.

Moore, who came to the islands after being invited by the Pickleball Federation of the Northern Mariana Islands, said the group's growth is incredible considering the sport was only introduced locally a couple of years ago.

"It's amazing that you already have a dedicated pickleball court on Saipan during that short amount of time. People really want to learn and improve and that's nice

to see. There's even some players that I met last year who've improved a lot already," he said.

The co-founder of Pickleball Trips, a company taking pickleball players to world-class destinations around the world, said it's also nice to see that the pickleball group is attracting young players like Chelsea Henson, who took part in the clinic.

"Young players very quickly absorb new things. So even today, from the beginning to the end of the lesson, I can



MARK RABAGO

Nine-time national pickleball champion Daniel Moore gestures as he conducts a clinic last Wednesday at the American Memorial Park pickleball courts.

Manny Sablan inducted into Hall of Fame

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

With a remarkable 28-year career and counting in baseball as both a player and a coach, Manny Sablan has been inducted into the NMI Sports Hall of Fame.

Rightfully so, he also received the 2022 Coach of the Year Award along with tennis' Jeff Race and weightlifting's Antonette Labausa and David Barnhouse during the 2022 NMSA Annual Sports Award Banquet Tuesday evening at the Hibiscus Hall of the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

The 42-year-old Sablan started his love for baseball back in 1994 and was a product of the Saipan Little League Baseball Association and represented the NMI in the Big League World Series in 1997 and 1998.

He then played for the Saipan Major League (Now Saipan Baseball League) and was selected as a member of the NMI national team on several occasions, competing in the then South Pacific and South Pacific Mini Games, Mobil Games, and Micronesian Games. While in the SML, he also coached in the Little League, leading the Patriots to undefeated seasons

in the Major and Junior divisions. He was also a girls fast-pitch softball coach for Saipan Southern High School, Mt. Carmel School, and the Patriots Angels.

Sablan was also awarded 2022 Coach of the Year as he managed the NMI National Baseball Team that won the gold medal in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

He thanked "the [Saipan Baseball League] board for nominating me for this award. I have no idea. I thought the award was for the entire baseball team for winning the gold medal."

He then dedicated his awards to his late mother, Consolacion Sablan, who was his biggest supporter. "She never missed a single game. She was able to watch all my games, including off-island games like the '97-'98 World Series in Florida [and the] 1999 South Pacific Games in Guam."

With baseball making a comeback in the CNMI this

See MANNY on Page 23



LEIGH GASES

From left, Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan, John Davis, 2022 Coach of the Year Antonette Labausa, Manny Sablan, David Barnhouse, and Jeff Race, James Lee, Alex Sablan, and Nick Gross pose for a photo in the 2022 NMSA Annual Sports Award Banquet Tuesday evening at the Hibiscus Hall of the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

Kanoa FC, Southern United, Shirley's notch wins in women's soccer



NMIFA

In this file photo, Southern United FC's Keisha Deleon Guerrero, right, goes after the ball against a Paire FC player in the Flores-Pee Luawal Division of the Dove Women's League played at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Kanoa FC, Southern United, and Shirley's, all won in Week 3 of the Flores-Pée Luwal Division of the Dove Women's League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The women in orange of the Kanoa FC have won all their games so far with their latest win against Paire FC, 4-1; Southern United had a lopsided win against Matansa, 5-0; and Shirley's blanked Tan Holdings 3-0.

In the Kanoa-Paire battle in the afternoon, Kanoa dominated the field with swifter footwork as Jenny Lee bagged

a goal in the 25th minute. Teammate Mary Kay Alferos followed her lead and dealt two blows to the net with an additional goal by another teammate.

Paire were not able to see the net swish in their favor until the 78th minute, but by then it was too late for a rally and fell, 4-1.

Southern United are second in the standings behind Kanoa with a two win and one draw card after their victory against Matansa.

SUFC's Erin Frink was a wildfire on the pitch—zooming left and right to shoot and complete a hat-trick, first in the 20th minute, then in the 41st, and the third a couple

See KANOA on Page 23

ATHLETES
of the
YEAR

Dove
Women's League